



LORD OF ALL REALMS

BOOK 02

Ni Cang Tian

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

Lord of All Realms

(Jue Dui Xuan Xiang)

(绝对选项)

by

Pear Lands In The Autumn Spring

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Synopsis

In ancient times, there existed giant spirits capable of supporting the heavens. With bodies as enormous as stars, they soared across the universe. Great clan leaders with mysterious blood running through their veins shattered the void and created new worlds. Ancient Qi Warriors crossed a river of stars to enlighten numerous mortal beings. For unknown reasons, an era silently came to an end, all realms were separated, ancient giant spirits disappeared one after another. Thousands of years later, young Nie Tian managed to travel back into ancient times with the help of a drop of blood...

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Chapter 101: The Sky Changes

The moon hung high in the night sky, scarlet like blood. The blood-colored moonlight spilled to the earth, making the Spiritual Treasure sect seem as though it was immersed in blood.

Nie Tian stood on the balcony, looking at streets that were already filled with people who were standing and looking up at the sky with terrified expressions on their faces.

“Master, what do we do? Should we leave the Spiritual Treasure sect as soon as possible?” Terror could be heard from Luo Xin’s voice.

Wu Xing’s face was as grim as the deepest ocean. He shook his head and said, “We leave, but not now. If I’m not mistaken, many powerful experts from the Ghost sect, Blood sect, and Hell sect are now lurking around the Spiritual Treasure sect. If we leave now, we’ll immediately be swamped.”

Luo Xin was getting panicked. “So we hold our ground here?”

Wu Xing took a deep breath and looked at everyone, before saying, “Let’s wait and see. The Spiritual Treasure sect’s Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation is the most powerful and miraculous spell formation in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven. Even the powerful Qi warriors from the Ghost sect, Blood sect, and Hell sect won’t be able to destroy it in a short period of time. Everyone will stay here before anything happens to the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation. But if it shatters...”

With these words, Wu Xing fell silent and seemed to be painstakingly weighing the gains and losses in his mind.

“If the grand spell formation breaks, allowing the powerful experts from the Ghost sect, Blood sect, and Hell sect to flood in, and we’re unable to ward them off, we’ll find a way to escape.”

Liu Yan prompted, “Master, how do they have the audacity to start such a large scale invasion?”

Luo Xin said, “Even though we battle with those three sects from time to time, it never went this far. Starting an all-out war and fighting to the last man doesn’t benefit either party. Why are they doing this?”

Wu Xin thought for a moment and explained, “The reason why conflict of such size never broke out before was that... they never found the right opportunity.

“Recently, that Profound Realm senior from the Grayvale sect seems to be in a secluded meditation, and won’t come out unless he comes to complete enlightenment by himself. No one else will be able to make him walk out of there.

“Rumor has it that the other Profound Realm senior from the Mystic Mist sect has left for some other realm in the Domain of the Falling Stars.

“Therefore, the only remaining Profound Realm seniors on our side would be Fang Hui of the Spiritual Treasure sect and Nie Tian’s master.

“Meanwhile, the Ghost sect and Blood sect combined have two Profound Realm seniors. And the Hell sect... also has two.

“Over the past half a year, due to the huge changes in the Green Illusion dimension, our four sects have joined forces and killed many from the Ghost sect, Blood sect, and Hell sect. Those three sects have been rather quiet these days. We thought that they had conceded. Who knew that they... have been conspiring such a grand scheme.”

After giving a brief explanation, Wu Xing said to Liu Yan, “Protect them. I’ll go ask about the situation and see whether their spacial teleportation portals still work.”

With these words, Wu Xing jumped out off the balcony. It seemed he didn’t even reach the ground before blurring into a green shadow, flashing forward in the street, and vanishing into the distance.

“Everyone, stay here! Don’t move!” Liu Yan shouted.

Nie Tian, Jiang Lingzhu, and Ye Gumo stood next to each other, looking into the streets where Qi warriors from each sect were rushing about with their eyes full of terror. Their hearts grew heavy as they became influenced by the commotion outside.

RUUUUMBLE!

A violent tremor suddenly emerged from the depths of the earth. The sixth-floor stone pavilion in which Nie Tian stood trembled with it.

Nie Tian scanned the area with rapt attention before he suddenly realized that the three unvegetated stone mountain peaks, that stood in three directions of the valley, were gradually turning scarlet.

They were all thousands of meters high. Now, as their color changed, streams of flames started to spurt out from the caves within them.

Shortly after, the three stone peaks seemed to have turned into heated, red metal rods, emanating astonishing amount of heat.

The streams of blazing flames shot out from the mountain caves like reversed waterfalls, pouring straight up into the heavens.

Not long after, a shield of blazing fire enveloped the entire sky.

Streams of flames were constantly twisting and changing irregularly on the screen of flame, combining and interweaving into complicated and mysterious patterns of flames, in which there seemed to lie the true essence of the flames as well as boundless magics.

The sky seemed to be burning while the earth was rumbling non-stop. Even more blazing streams were being channeled by the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, charging high up into the sky one after another.

The valley where the Spiritual Treasure sect was located had always been unbearably hot. Following the activation of the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, the valley became even more blistering and stuffy.

The sound of turmoil came from each and every direction, from the streets, from the Spiritual school, and from the numerous stone pavilions that sold spiritual weapons, armors, and medicine pills.

The equipment forgers who had been lucky enough to flee out of their caves, were now standing at the foot of the three stone peaks, looking up at the sky with frightened expressions on their faces.

While Nie Tian observed the surroundings, Dowager Weng hurried over, together with Zheng Bin, Han Xi, as well as a few others from the Mystic Mist sect.

“Over there!”

“Where’s elder Wu Xing?” Dowager Weng barked.

“My master went to the Spiritual Treasure sect’s courtyard,” Liu Yan replied.

Dowager Weng seemed to have expected that. She nodded and didn't wait for Liu Yan's approval before leading the Mystic Mist sect disciples up the stairs.

Seconds later, she got to the floor where Nie Tian was, along with the others.

Nie Tian noticed that Zheng Bin and Han Xin, as well as the few older disciples of the Mystic Mist sect all had gloomy expression on their faces. It was quite obvious that they were also worrying about the great changes that were taking place in the Spiritual Treasure sect.

After making it up the stairs, she spoke very frankly, "We don't have many people at this convention. Our strength is rather limited. Huge changes are going to fall upon the Spiritual Treasure sect. Once the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation is breached, no one from the Spiritual school or the Treasure school will be able to help us. If we stay together, we can watch each other's back, which is much better than fighting by ourselves."

Liu Yan heaved a sigh and said, "No one would've thought that such a heaven-shaking change would take place during the Treasure Convention."

Bitterness could be seen on Dowager Weng's face. "They did pick the best time to strike. Coincidentally, the powerful senior from our sect isn't currently in the Realm of Flame Heaven, whereas the powerful senior from the Grayvale sect is still in his secluded

meditation. Only...”

She looked towards Nie Tian and said, “Only your master can fight. However, I’m afraid that he won’t be able to come to the Spiritual Treasure sect. At least one of the two powerful seniors from the Hell sect will go to the back mountain of the Cloudsoaring sect to keep your master busy so that he won’t be able to help defend here.”

Upon hearing her words, Nie Tian’s expression instantly flickered. “My master...”

“You don’t need to worry about him, Nie Tian,” Liu Yan consoled, “Martial granduncle will be fine. Considering his cultivation base and strength, one senior expert from the Hell sect can only delay him from getting out. Two senior experts will only be able to stop him from coming here to help us. If they wished to harm martial granduncle, the Ghost sect or the Blood sect would still need to deploy one more senior expert there.

“However, if they deployed an additional senior expert there, they would lose their advantage here.

“After all, senior Fang Hui is here.

“Hence, you should be worried about yourself instead of your master.”

Face grim, Dowager Weng checked the situation outside and said,

“Yeah, he’s right. This time, the Ghost sect, Blood sect, and Hell sect attacking together will definitely inflict serious damage to the Spiritual Treasure sect. To host this Treasure Convention, the Spiritual Treasure sect must have shipped a lot of their precious spiritual tools, that they stored away in other places, here.

“I don’t think they’re going to get to keep those valuable spiritual tools. As for how many people are going to die, that’ll depend on how many powerful experts the three sects sent here.

“After this war, the Spiritual Treasure sect will have definitely sustained huge losses, or even...”

Dowager Weng didn’t finish her sentence. It seemed that she thought the Spiritual Treasure sect probably wouldn’t be able to survive the calamity.

“Look!” Shi Yi yelled.

It was in that moment that everyone noticed, high in the sky, above that shield of blazing flames, a figure suddenly appeared right under the blood moon.

Upon closer examination, it appeared to be a woman sitting on a lotus seat, glittering with bloody light.

The moment that woman appeared, Nie Tian could feel that the blood-colored moonlight that filled the sky seemed to be attracted by a strange power that came from within her, and started madly

converging onto her from every direction.

Behind the woman, a blood shadow could be seen, baring its fangs and brandishing its claws, expanding so rapidly that it would soon fill the sky.

Even though the blood shadow was still miles away and they still had a miraculous shield of flames standing in between them, Nie Tian was gradually taken over by a oppressing, suffocating feeling.

Chapter 102: The Ultimate Doom

Gradually, the blood shadow beneath the blood moon expanded to the size of a mountain peak.

The enormous blood shadow unleashed extremely frightening fluctuations of Qi and blood, making all of the guests inside the valley feel as if their Qi and blood weren't flowing smoothly.

HISS! HISS!

Rays of blood-colored moonlight that seemed like long, silky rivers of blood poured down in torrents from the round blood moon.

When they approached the ground, it was as though each and every one of them had turned into a blood-colored meteor, plummeting to the earth.

On the glittering, blood-colored lotus seat, the blurry figure of the woman seemed to be making a hand seal to activate a secret technique, before the enormous blood shadow suddenly let out a heaven-shaking, earth-shattering roar.

The minute the roar echoed out, the plummeting blood-colored meteors became even redder and their tails became even longer.

BOOOOM!! BOOOOM!!

The dark-red meteors started to bombard the Spiritual Treasure sect's Heaven Burning Earth Flame grand formation.

Countless, densely packed, flaming patterns appeared on the bright, fiery shield. They exploded and shattered into pieces, but rapidly regrouped only a second later.

At the same time, an even more violent tremor erupted from the core of the earth. Streams of blazing flames rushed straight into the sky from the three stone mountains peaks that were in three corners of the valley.

All of the guests in the valley, together with Qi warriors from the Spiritual school and Treasure school, were looking up at the sky with intense anxiety written across their faces.

Liu Yan was already trying to decide whether or not he should lead Nie Tian and the others to evacuate the moment the blazing shield was chiseled open. "I'm afraid that the Heaven Burning Earth Flame won't hold up for too much longer. That deadly woman from the Blood sect is going all out. From the look of it, the might of her spell can shake the heavens and alter the earth."

Just like Dowager Weng, he also believed that the Spiritual Treasure sect wouldn't be able to escape doom this time, and he thus started to make plans for his fellow sectmembers.

"The senior expert from the Ghost sect will probably have also made his move. Unfortunately... we don't know what means he will use to attack the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation." Shi

Yi's gaze was shifting swiftly back and forth, as if he was searching for something.

Meanwhile...

At the foot of a stone peak, there was a solitary stone house, under which a dark and lengthy stone path led directly to the deepest part of the earth.

In a vast stone palace hall, hundreds of meters under the ground, Wei Ning's expression flickered. He was the second most powerful among the equipment forging experts in the Treasure school, and one of the few experts who was able to refine Premium grade spirit tools.

As a high-ranked equipment forger, he had recently been researching the method of refining Spirit Channeling items, and wholeheartedly focused on forging one.

Normally, there were two ways to craft Spirit Channeling items.

The first method was to use materials with a rich spiritual nature to make spiritual tools. During the last step of tempering, refining, and shaping, the spiritual tool would naturally be vested with spiritual nature and develop intelligence.

Only equipment forgers at the Spirit Channeling level would be able to grab the true essence of this method.

However, Wei Ning wasn't there yet. The means that he had adopted were to directly force a spirit to merge into an item, therefore giving the item a soul.

In order to achieve his goal, he had gone through great pains to collect seven powerful spirits, all of which were prepared for the purpose of endowing the spiritual tool with a soul.

Now, the seven powerful spirits were tied up by countless fine thunder chains, and confined within seven separated special containers.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The thunder chains glowed with electricity and lightning from time to time. The seven spirits seemed to be holding on to their last breath and absolutely didn't have the intention rebelling.

However, for some reason, the seven spirits, which were tied up by the thunder chains and confined within the special containers, seemed to have suddenly possessed a strange, formidable power.

They went berserk and frantically rammed into the specially made containers, completely disregarding the thunder chains that had been binding them.

On the surface of the glass containers, delicately patterns suddenly appeared, giving rise to a strong surge of restrictive force.

However, those seven spirits ignored the restrictive spell, and continued to ram into the containers. As the result, one of the containers suddenly cracked, forming a small opening, through which the spirit within flew out like a wisp of smoke.

As soon as it flew out, a surge of cold, damp soul power immediately enveloped the entire stone palace.

A confused look flashed across Wei Ning's eyes, as a deadly thought suddenly floated in his heart.

BAM! BAM!

The moment his mind swayed, each and every one of the remaining six containers exploded into pieces.

In blink of an eye, the remaining six spirits broke free from their imprisonment and turned into six terrifying ghosts, forcefully boring their way into his head from his ears, eyes, and nostrils.

Only after a few seconds, Wei Ning lost all signs of life, and his soul seemed to have been nibbled away with nothing left.

The seven spirits that had been imprisoned hundreds of meters underground, had struggled free from their bindings and suddenly appeared in the valley.

They targeted the nearest equipment forgers as soon as they got out.

“Spirits have flown out from underground!”

“Those spirits are the ones that elder Wei Ning spent an enormous price on and got from other realms! They broke free of their bindings and seem to be controlled by the Ghost sect!”

“Elder Wei Ning is probably dead!”

Some equipment forgers knew that when Wei Ning had obtained the seven spirits, they had been shipped to this place with layers upon layers of shackles on them.

It was because even Wei Ning himself knew that without the layers of constraint binding the spirits down, he wasn't strong enough to contend against them single-handedly.

The spirits breaking free meant that Wei Ning, who was ranked second in the Treasure school, was very likely dead.

The equipment forgers were howling miserably or yelling loudly while fleeing in all directions.

The spirits, on the other hand, were swiftly floating about, pursuing and attacking people all over the valley by breaking into their minds and feeding on their souls.

Pan Tao's father, Pan Bai, roared out angrily from within a stone

pavilion quite a distance away. “They’re deadly spirits from the Realm of Dark Underworld. Did Wei Ning lose his mind? He actually dared to purchase spirits from the Dark Underground Realm!”

Nie Tian noticed that a few Qi warriors of the Spiritual school suddenly rushed out from Pan Bai’s direction to attack the seven deadly spirits from the Dark Underground Realm.

BOOM!

In that moment, the woman, who was sitting upright on a lotus, mounted the enormous blood shade and together viciously charged into the blazing shield.

Nie Tian was so shocked by the sound of the explosion that his eardrums hurt. He looked up and realized that the flaming patterns on the protective shield had failed to immediately reform after the tremendous blow.

Many visitors who were looking up at the sky in the streets went pale, knowing that the situation was taking a turn for the worse.

“This is not good!”

“It’s going to break!”

SHEW!

Wu Xing suddenly showed up. He rushed over and shouted out, “All of the inter-spacial teleportation portal in the Spiritual Treasure sect have been affected by the abnormal fluctuations of space, and have stopped working.”

“So what do we do, master?” Luo Xin asked loudly.

Only then did Wu Xing see that Dowager Weng was also there. He only briefly nodded in her direction before continuing, “I’m afraid that we can’t stay in the Spiritual Treasure sect any longer.”

Dowager Weng agreed with him.

“Let’s move closer to the edge of the spell formation. If the Heaven Burning Earth Fire grand formation is breached, experts from the Ghost sect and Blood sect will swarm in. By then, we can only take the risk and try to break out of their siege.” Wu Xing didn’t wish to perish along with the Spiritual Treasure sect, so he urged everyone to follow him.

Under his lead, Nie Tian, Jiang Lingzhu, Ye Gumo, and the others dashed downstairs and immediately left.

Numerous disciples from Spiritual Treasure sect’s subordinate clans, as well as Qi warriors from the Spiritual school and Treasure school, were clamoring in the streets as they all felt the incoming danger.

Pan Bai seemed to have noticed the movements of Wu Xing and the others from afar.

He suddenly pulled his son, Pan Tao, to the side and with a voice that only Pan Tao could hear, he said, “Tao’er, go with people from the Cloudsoaring sect and Mystic Mist sect, and get as far away as possible from the Spiritual Treasure sect. Your grandfather and I hold important positions in the sect. We have to stay and fight, but you don’t have to.”

“No!” Pan Tao’s eyes turned red. “I want to stay with you!”

“Go!” Pan Bai’s voice was filled with rage. “Get the hell out of here! Our sect has been struck by a sudden calamity. I don’t know how many people will be killed. But I don’t care about others, I just need you alive!

“Get the hell out! If you want to do something for us, then you should get out of here alive and inform the other three sects about the sudden upheaval which has occurred in the Spiritual Treasure sect as soon as possible!

“If the other three sects are informed in time and send out all of their powerful experts, we might still have a chance to survive!

“Go! You’re not escaping. You’re bringing reinforcements and the chance to live! Now go!”

Pan Bai continuously urged Pan Tao, fearing that Wu Xing and

the others might have gone far enough that his son wouldn't be able to catch up to them.

Pan Tao gritted his teeth and stared deep into his father's eyes for a few seconds, before he finally nodded vigorously, and without saying a word, dashed out at the fastest speed possible to catch up to Wu Xing and the others.

At the same time...

In the secluded courtyard where An Shiyi and her younger sister lived, An Ying was looking at the sky, her eyes filled with terror. She had long since sunk into a state of utter stupefaction as she repeatedly asked the same question, "Elder Sister, what should we do? What should we do?"

An Shiyi's delicate face had also turned pale. Staring blankly at the blazing shield that had more and more visible cracks on it, she muttered, "There's nothing to do. Guests from the Cloudsoaring sect, Mystic Mist sect, and Grayvale sect don't have the obligation to stay and guard our sect to the end. Plus, we are not like Pan Tao and Zheng Rui. We're from a subordinate clan.

"If we dare to leave when the sect is going through such a heaven-shaking change, can you imagine the punishment we'll receive? We might as well die here now.

"Let's leave it all to fate."

Chapter 103: Chaos

Within the Spiritual Treasure sect, seven deadly spirits were flying about hunting down disciples from the Spiritual school and Treasure school.

Under the blood moon, the terrifying woman from the Blood sect was using secret spells to command the immense blood shade to repeatedly ram into the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation.

All the guests who had come to the Treasure Convention were cursing as they secretly moved closer towards the edge of the Spiritual Treasure sect, just like Wu Xing and the others from the Cloudsoaring sect.

They all bore the same thought: once the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation broke, they would exert all means to leave at the first possible moment, since none of them would choose to stay and fight for the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“Everybody, follow me, and by all means do not get separated!”

Wu Xing charged straight forward on the wide street, with Liu Yan, Shi Yi, and Luo Xin tightly following behind him. People from the Mystic Mist sect also stayed close to them.

Nie Tian, Jiang Lingzhu, and Ye Gumo looked on grim as they secretly drew from their spiritual power, getting ready to meet enemies that could appear at any moment.

At this moment, Pan Tao's cry came through from behind them.
"Nie Tian!"

The moment he looked back, he saw Pan Tao dashing towards them with bloodshot eyes.

Wu Xing also turned around, and when he realized that it was Pan Bai's son, Pan Tao, he was somewhat surprised.

Pan Tao raised his voice and said, "Greetings, Senior Wu, Senior Weng! I'm know every corner of the Spiritual Treasure sect like the back of my hand. I can lead you out of here."

Wu Xing's expression flickered as he said, "Your father... didn't want you to stay?"

Pan Tao's eyes were full of sorrow as he nodded and said, "He wants me to get out of here alive with you."

"Good! You lead the way!" Wu Xing said firmly.

He was aware of Pan Bai's status, and that Pan Tao's grandfather was the grand elder of the Spiritual school and also one of the main participants in the construction of the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame spell formation.

Having Pan Tao lead the way, not only would it save them

trouble while escaping from the Spiritual Treasure sect valley, but also they perhaps could find safer routes, so as to steer clear of the Ghost sect and the Blood sect once they were out of the valley.

Upon hearing Wu Xing's words, Pan Tao quickly made it to the forefront of the group, and pointed out the directions to Wu Xing from time to time.

Wu Xing nodded as the group followed Pan Tao's directions, moving further and further away from the broad streets in the central area of the valley. They didn't choose to go to the main gate to the Spiritual Treasure sect, but rather marched towards one of the three stone mountain peaks.

As they marched along, Pan Tao said, "The moment the Heaven Burning Earth Fire formation is breached, the stone peaks that draw flames from the earth's core might lose their function. The three stone peaks are hollow and hold tunnels that can lead us out of the valley. Of course, there might also be people from the Ghost sect and the Blood sect lurking out there. But, I believe that there won't be a lot of powerful experts waiting over there.

"We trust your judgment!" said Dowager Weng.

They all believed that since Pan Tao wanted to get out alive, he wouldn't possibly lie to them.

Pan Tao had grown up in the Spiritual Treasure sect. Therefore, he had a far better understanding of the surroundings. He knew everything about the valley, even the grass and trees, like the back

of his hand.

Hence, under Pan Tao's guidance, the group had moved further away from other guests, who were clueless fleeing in random directions, as they gradually approached one of the stone peaks.

CRACK!

A huge cracking noise suddenly echoed out above their heads. Nie Tian, who was rushing forward, looked up.

He found that a thin opening had been cracked open in the bright flaming shield that enveloped the vast sky. The immense blood shadow, which had been condensed by the bloody moonlight and spiritual power of the Blood sect female expert, had shoved its burly hands into the blood-colored crack and was continuously pulling to the sides.

In the sky, the female expert from the Blood sect, who was still sitting upright on top of her glittering, bloody lotus, suddenly snorted. "OPEN!"

CRUNCH!

Following her snort, the bloody shadow forcibly ripped open a large crack.

In the next moment, numerous red-garbed Blood sect experts came down from the sky and made their way through the crack,

one after the other.

Guests were running about in the streets, shouting in extreme fear, and dashing out of the valley through the main gate at the fastest speed possible.

“Dammit! The grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation has been breached!”

“Let’s get out of here!”

“Death awaits whoever chooses to stay!”

At that moment however, a host of dark figures suddenly appeared at the entrance of the valley, one after another. Numerous Ghost sect experts had been waiting at the valley entrance for a long time.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Also at that moment, numerous bloody figures descended from the sky, before immediately spreading out and starting to pursue and kill the fleeing people.

A few extremely powerful experts, on the other hand, threw themselves at the area where the Spiritual school and Treasure school was gathered, and instantly started to fight at close quarters.

BOOM!

All of a sudden, a gigantic bronze cauldron shot up into the sky from a crowd of Treasure school equipment forgers.

In the air, it pulsed with a multicolored, precious light.

The moment the precious light shone on the blood shadow that had cracked open the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, it surprisingly melted like a heated snowflake!

As soon as the Qi warriors from the Spiritual Treasure sect caught sight of the large bronze cauldron, they knew right away that their strongest expert had truly been angered.

“It’s senior Fang Hui!”

“Senior Fang Hui has made his move!”

“A powerful expert in the Profound Realm!”

On top of the mouth of the large cauldron stood the slight figure of an old man. Face grave and stern, he stared at the Blood sect female expert under the bloody moon.

“Earthflame Gathering!”

Fang Hui performed an incantation gesture with his hand, and the broken bright flame shield suddenly morphed into countless blazing meteors, rushing into the large cauldron.

A moment later, even more beams of colorful lights flew out from within the large cauldron.

It seemed as if they had turned into numerous thick greatswords, which chopped towards the woman under the bloody moon with world-shaking momentum.

WHOOSH!

It was also at this point that numerous blood-colored light threads gathered from all directions, and densely interweaved in front of the woman.

Very quickly, thousands of bloody tentacles appeared in front of the woman, forming a heaven-blocking wall which constantly defended against the attacks from the gigantic swords.

With that, the two Profound Realm experts began to fight fiercely in midair.

Nie Tian only took a glance at their fight before continuing to dash along after Pan Tao and Wu Xing toward one of the mountain peaks.

Along the way, Nie Tian suddenly called out, as he spotted a secluded courtyard from afar.

“Yee?”

An Ying had taken him there the first day he had arrived in Spiritual Treasure sect.

That was An Shiyi and An Ying’s residence!

“Big Sister An! Are you in there?” Nie Tian shouted out loudly, as he quickly moved closer towards the courtyard.

Inside, An Shiyi and An Ying were staring blankly at the battle in the sky with ash-pale faces when Nie Tian’s words took them by surprise.

“Nie Tian! It’s Nie Tian’s voice!” An Ying rushed out of the courtyard, and instantly saw the distant Nie Tian, as the latter was following Wu Xing and the others towards one of the stone peaks. “Sister! It’s Nie Tian and elder Wu Xing, they’re rushing in our direction. Oh! And Pan Tao too, he’s also with them!”

“Pan Tao...” An Shiyi went blank for a moment, as she seemed to have understood the reason why Pan Tao was there with Wu Xing and the others. “Just come back, they want to escape through the tunnels under the stone peak. Pan Tao has his father and grandfather to protect him, even if he runs at such a crucial moment. But, we have no one.”

Her expression turned grim, “Don’t let Nie Tian see you. I don’t want to burden him...”

“But, he’s already seen me,” An Ying said.

Nie Tian shouted from afar, “Where is your sister? Why are you still standing there? Be quick and come with us!”

An Ying shook her head helplessly, while standing at the doorway. “No, we can’t.”

It was at that time that three red-garbed Blood sect experts descended from the sky, and headed towards the courtyard where they were.

“Over there!”

Wu Xing, who was at the front of the group, stopped and briefly frowned when he realized that Nie Tian had stopped to urge An Shiyi and her sister to leave with them.

He only waited a moment before saying, “You can leave with us. I can’t guarantee that we’ll be able to get out of here alive. But, I can guarantee that after this incident, the Spiritual Treasure sect won’t hold you responsible for leaving!”

Upon hearing Wu Xing’s guarantee, An Shiyi, who was originally

ready to die with the sect, suddenly had her eyes light up.

She immediately made a new decision and said to An Ying, “Let’s go! Now that Senior Wu has given us his word, we can leave together with them!”

An expert from the Blood Sect sneered before blurring into a bloody light and appearing directly in front of them. “None shall leave!”

“Looking to die?!” Wu Xing snorted coldly as an enormous, bright, green lightning bolt suddenly shot out from his left cuff.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The lightning bolt continuously fluctuated in the air while releasing terrifying thunder claps and electric power, taking form of a lightning dragon in one moment and a thundering snake in the next.

Terrified, the man from the Blood sect tried to escape. “He’s Wu Xing from the Cloudsoaring sect!”

However, the lightning bolt was still hot on his tail. Only a few seconds later, it caught up to him and struck him on his back.

The man instantly fell from midair, with green smoke emitting from his black, burnt body.

The two other disciples from the Blood sect howled madly, informing nearby Blood sect experts to come to their aide.

“Wu Xing! Wu Xing is here!”

“Someone, quickly come help us kill Wu Xing from the Cloudsoaring sect!”

Wu Xing glared at Nie Tian again and said, “Be quick! We need to leave!”

Chapter 104: Dead End

If Nie Tian hadn't spent such a long time convincing the An sisters to join them, they would have been gone long before the three Blood sect experts came along.

If they hadn't been discovered, Wu Xing wouldn't have been forced to make a move and therefore expose their whereabouts.

However, now that the three experts from the Blood Sect had descended into the courtyard, they would undoubtedly find the An sisters no matter what happened.

If Nie Tian chose to leave they would be able to avoid a fierce battle, but the An sisters would most likely be killed.

Annoyed with Nie Tian, Dowager Weng from the Mystic Mist sect whispered, "Nothing is more dangerous than affection!"

The remaining two disciples from the Blood sect were still yelling to their nearby companions.

"Wu Xing is here!"

"Wu Xing from the Cloudsoaring sect!"

The Blood sect experts in the vicinity all heard their cries. They descended from the sky and rapidly converged onto their location.

“Damn!”

He knew that person.

Wu Xing looked over with rapt attention and saw a burly, one-armed expert from the Blood sect in blood-colored garments.

“Liu Yan!” Wu Xing shouted. “You lead them and take them to the place Pan Tao talked about. Dowager Weng and I will stay behind to stop them.”

Dowager Weng also made a quick decision. “Zheng Bin, Han Qian, you go with them!”

At that moment, the six experts from the Blood sect had already joined their two comrades who had been screaming for help.

The one-armed man from the Blood sect sneered and said, “Wu Xing! Dowager Weng! Long time no see! Over the past half a year, your four sects have teamed up and killed god knows how many people from my sect! It’s time that you paid your debts!”

With a wave of his right hand, a large number of blood-colored discs immediately whirled out, whistling through the air.

They let out ear-piercing whistles while emanating a suffocating bloody light. Only seconds later, Wu Xing was trapped.

After seeing their friend make a move, the other experts from the Blood sect bolted forward to besiege Dowager Weng.

Receiving his master's order, Liu Yan didn't hesitate at all before urging the people around him to move out. "Let's go!"

The first thing he noticed was that a few Blood sect disciples in the center of the valley seemed to have noticed their activities, and had abandoned their own targets to rapidly head in their direction.

Liu Yan knew perfectly well that once they were surrounded, they wouldn't have any chance of making it to the foot of the stone peak.

Shi Yi and Luo Xin were also very familiar with Wu Xing's temper. They knew that once he had made a decision, they, as his disciples, could only obey unconditionally.

Therefore, none of them tried to stay behind and fight alongside Wu Xing. Instead, they helped Liu Yan urge the crowd to move out.

Their unanimous decision stopped Nie Tian from having any ideas of staying and fighting to the death. Hence, he followed Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo to chase after Liu Yan and the others.

Jiang Lingzhu was running while grumbling towards Nie Tian, "Hey you! An Ying didn't even smile at you once when we were in

the Green Illusion dimension. Even when you encountered great danger, she hardly tried at all to help you. Why do you care about her so much?”

Ye Gumo jumped in and said, “He’s fallen for her. There’s no other explanation.”

An Shiyi and An Ying, who were trailing behind, heard the two of them berating Nie Tian. However, the two sisters didn’t say anything.

Under Liu Yan’s lead, the group of people followed Pan Tao’s directions and quickly left Wu Xing and Dowager Weng.

From time to time, Nie Tian turned around to look back, and noticed that Wu Xing and Dowager Weng seemed to have been gradually surrounded by the experts from the Blood sect.

A sudden rush of guilt bloomed in Nie Tian’s heart.

“I’m sorry,” An Ying approached him and quietly apologized.

An Shiyi pursed her mouth, and didn’t say anything, however her beautiful eyes were filled with apology.

The two of them were fully aware that if it weren’t for them, Nie Tian wouldn’t have stopped in that courtyard even for a second and probably would not have been noticed by the experts from the Blood sect.

The An sisters knew that they would have been killed beyond the shadow of a doubt, but Wu Xing and Dowager Weng wouldn't have been trapped in such a dangerous situation.

“Forget about it,” Nie Tian replied without thinking, “If senior martial brother Wu and Dowager Weng are killed, I will definitely avenge them, even if it takes me the rest of my life to do it.”

They never stopped moving while they spoke. Every nearby expert from the Blood sect had been attracted by Wu Xing and Dowager Weng, thus none pursued them.

In their eyes, Wu Xing and Dowager Weng were the true big fish; key figures who could change the course of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Killing the two of them would inflict great damages to the Cloudsoaring sect and Mystic Mist sect. Their value far surpassed all others’.

After they had run along for some time, Pan Tao suddenly stopped and stood beside the mouth of a cave. Flickering flames could still be seen lingering in the area.

“We’re here!”

Everyone else stopped after him.

“This is the cave?” Liu Yan asked with a suspicious expression.

Pan Tao nodded and turned around to explain to them, “Since the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation has been breached, these three peaks can no longer draw out blazing Earthflame from the earth core. However, due to the previous attractive force of the grand spell formation, there will still be some residual flames within the stone caves.

“However, as long as we be careful and protect each other, the residual flames... won’t be much of a threat.”

“Are you sure?” Luo Xin asked.

Pan Tao smiled bitterly, “I’m also scared of death. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have chosen to run with you guys. If the residual flames are still lethal, I’ll also die in there myself.”

“Well...” After pausing shortly, in order to convince everyone, Pan Tao continued, “I’ll be the first to go in, and I’ll lead you guys down the stone cave. Will you rest assured now?”

Liu Yan nodded. “Alright!”

“Mr. Liu, do we wait for your master and Dowager Weng?” asked Zheng Bin.

Liu Yan shook his head, and with a convincing tone he said, “No need. My master will be able to follow our aura and accurately find

this place. You guys can rest assured. As long as senior Weng stays together with him, they'll be able to find their way to this stone cave and follow us out to safety, even if there's no one to guide them."

"If that's the case, then alright," Zheng Bin said, relaxing a bit.

"Okay, I'll go in first," Pan Tao said.

Everyone nodded.

Pan Tao actually wasn't as confident as he appeared. He clenched his teeth, tried to summon up courage, and braced himself to charge inside.

At that very moment, a male figure suddenly walked out of the cave entrance.

The man had messy, red hair, and a beard so bushy that his face seem to be hidden within a pile of madly growing weeds, almost impossible to recognize.

However, in the instant that he exited the cave, the faces of Pan Tao and the An sisters turned pale with fright.

Pan Tao stammered, "Elder... Elder Gan..."

The An sisters seemed especially terrified and panicked after

seeing this person.

After coming out, Gan Kang didn't look at Pan Tao, but instead stared at An Shiyi without even blinking, and reproached, "This is as far as you go. Do you realize what kind of punishment disciples will receive for fleeing the sect during a major change like this one?"

Ferociousness could be seen from his eyes, as if he would immediately unleash murderous attacks on An Shiyi if she failed to provide a good reason.

From the sudden changes to their expressions, Nie Tian instantly realized that the old man in front of him was the fifth highest ranked equipment forger in the Treasure school, Gan Kang.

He was the one who had continuously pressured An Shiyi to marry him!

Anger appeared in Liu Yan's eyes as he impolitely said, "Senior Gan! Are you just stopping the An Sisters, or all of us?"

"All of you." Gan Kang put on a disdainful expression. Without giving Liu Yan the slightest face, he continued, "This path to the outside world is too important! No one is allowed to use it! If the Cloudsoaring sect and Mystic Mist sect are unwilling to advance and retreat together with the Spiritual Treasure sect, then I'll have to ask you to exit through the main gate of the valley just like everyone else does!"

“Elder Gan, it’s my father’s wish that we leave through the stone tunnel!” Pan Tao said angrily.

Gan Kang sneered, “I wouldn’t agree even if it were your grandfather’s wish! The sect is undergoing a great catastrophe, so no one from the Spiritual school or the Treasure school is allowed to leave without permission! If your father told you to leave with the outsiders, then he’s violating the sect rules! It’s your bad luck that you ran into me!

“You can call me inflexible or unreasonable,” Gan Kang said righteously. “No matter what, the path is closed to you all!”

Chapter 105: Guests from Another Realm

What Gan Kang said conformed to the sect rules. Therefore, even if Pan Tao's grandfather were there, he wouldn't be able to argue with him, much less Pan Tao.

However, anyone who knew about his affection towards An Shiyi would be able to tell that everything he had said was only out of his personal desire.

Now that the Spiritual Treasure sect had been struck by such a huge disaster, Pan Tao wasn't the only one who was attempting to escape.

Zheng Rui and the grandchildren of a few other elders were also trying to find their way out of the sect, because they also wanted to steer clear of the calamity, instead of fighting for the sect till their last breath.

Gan Kang would never intentionally target Pan Tao and at the same time, let people like Zheng Rui slip away.

His real target was Nie Tian and the An sisters!

Liu Yan couldn't be clearer about what was going on. If Nie Tian hadn't meddled with An Shiyi's problem and taken her as his sworn sister, Gan Kang absolutely wouldn't have showed up here and blocked their way.

An Shiyi also understood that if she had promised to marry Gan Kang, perhaps Gan Kang would have already arranged for her sister and her to leave the Spiritual Treasure sect.

Zheng Bin frowned and said, “Senior Gan, our Mystic Mist sect hasn’t offended you, have we? We have no intentions to interfere with the affairs between you and others. Can you let us pass?”

The few people from the Mystic Mist sect stared at Gan Kang with anxious expressions in their eyes.

At that moment, throughout the entire valley, experts from the Blood sect were chasing after guests and fighting with disciples from the Spiritual school and the Treasure school.

Not a single corner of the valley was safe. There were battles going on everywhere.

A large amount of experts from the Ghost sect that had previously been lingering on the outside, also swarmed in through the sect gate, causing disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect to suffer huge casualties.

Nie Tian’s group had been trying to escape from the valley since the start. However, because of the An sisters, Wu Xing and Dowager Weng had already been trapped.

The two of them stayed behind to buy time for Nie Tian and the others to reach this place and use the secret tunnel within the

stone peak to safely leave the Spiritual Treasure sect.

By blocking the road and not allowing anyone to pass, Gan Kang was undoubtedly eliminating everyone's hope to survive.

They had gone to great lengths to get to this safe exit. Zheng Bin and his sectmates knew that their hopes of leaving the Spiritual Treasure sect would be extremely small if they went back now; the exit in front of them was still their best choice.

He secretly resented Nie Tian for minding others' business, and dragging everyone down with him, while on the other hand, he continuously begged Gan Kang.

“No means no!” Gan Kang's face was cold. “No one passes, no matter who! Even if Wu Xing and Dowager Weng were here, I would still have the same attitude!”

He waved his hand and said impatiently, “If you want to leave, hurry and switch to another route and don't waste your time here!”

With another glance at An Shiyi, he snorted coldly, “As for you two, you two have to stay! As members of the Spiritual school, you must live and die together with the sect!”

He only pointed towards the An sisters, but not Pan Tao.

By that point, everyone could see perfectly clearly that Gan Kang

was deliberately making things difficult for those two. They also realized that they would have no chance of entering the stone cave unless they forced their way in.

SHEW!

It was also at that moment that three figures quietly descended from the sky.

The leader of them was none other than the person who had asked the Spiritual Treasure sect to sell the Flame Dragon Armor, Lai Yi. The moment he landed, he glanced at Nie Tian from the corner of his eye and said, “Hand over the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core before you leave.”

“Lai Yi, what took you so long?” asked Gan Kang.

Lai Yi, who came from another realm, slightly nodded towards Gan Kang and said, “We got into a fight with a few guys from the Blood sect. Brother Gan, if you want that girl, I have the simplest suggestion.” With a grin, he said, “Just take her and get out of here!”

Another foreigner tried to persuade him with a sincere tone, “Brother Gan! The Spiritual Treasure sect is experiencing a huge upheaval. Even if it’s not annihilated from the Realm of Flame Heaven, its power will be greatly decreased. If you stay in the Spiritual Treasure sect, you’ll always live in Fang Hui’s shadow, and you’ll never become the best equipment forger. I’d say you might as well leave the Spiritual Treasure sect and get the hell out

of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“Rest assured, our master can give you everything that you now have in the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“With your attainments in the art of equipment forging, it will be even possible that we open up a brand new equipment forging sect for you when we get back.”

Lai Yi jumped in and said, “Brother Gan, the Spiritual Treasure sect is doomed to wither away. Leave with us, will you?”

The three foreign Qi warriors didn't beat around the bush and were actually advising Gan Kang to leave the Spiritual Treasure sect in front of everyone.

Nie Tian, Liu Yan, and the others, including Pan Tao, were suddenly dumbstruck.

After hearing their conversation, Pan Tao instantly understood what was going on. “Elder Gan! The reason that you are here is to make sure those three can safely get out through the secret tunnel! You don't allow us to use the tunnel, but you're helping those three foreign equipment forgers! And you have the nerve to lecture us about loyalty?”

Liu Yan's expression also turned unpleasant. “Elder Gan, no matter what, our four sects are allies. What are these foreigners to you? You are opening the door for them, but not us? What's that

about?”

The people from the Mystic Mist sect also joined in and berated him.

Nie Tian now had a full understanding of the situation. However, he didn't say anything. Instead, he subconsciously reached for his bracelet of holding and thought to himself, “Flame Dragon Armor, Blood Core, what does that guy mean?”

Confronted by everyone, Gan Kang's face was now especially grim, as it seemed that he was struggling in his heart.

He wasn't struggling because of Liu Yan, Pan Tao, and the others' confrontation. Instead, he was hesitating about whether he should abandon everything in the Realm of Flame Heaven and take the chance to leave.

Lai Yi turned around to check the movements of the distant Blood sect experts. He appeared slightly anxious as he said, “Brother Gan! Time is of the essence here. Please stop hesitating! You should know better than anyone. After this war, the power of the Spiritual Treasure sect will significantly decline for sure. And you only rank fifth in the Treasure school of the Spiritual Treasure sect. Your authority in the Spiritual Treasure sect is far from adequate.”

“Only by leaving will you get the chance to delve deeper into the art of equipment refining. Besides... your way of equipment refining might not be approved by some people from your sect!”

Lai Yi's voice became anxious.

Upon hearing these words, Gan Kang, who had remained silent for a long time, seemed to have finally made up his mind. He took a deep breath and said to Lai Yi, "Take that woman with us."

He pointed towards An Shiyi.

As he spoke, he didn't even spare Liu Yan, Pan Tao, Nie Tian, and the others a glance, since he was confident that with Lai Yi and the other two foreign Qi warriors present, he would be able to do whatever he wanted.

"Alright!" Lai Yi nodded and pointed towards An Shiyi, indicating for the one beside him to make a move.

"Come with us!" That person immediately walked towards An Shiyi, with wisps of ash-colored mist swirling around in his eyes. All of a sudden, a desolate icy aura, that seemed to have morphed into invisible shackles, spread out towards An Shiyi.

Liu Yan's expression flickered. "Greater Heaven stage!"

It was also at this point that Lai Yi flashed into action, and arrived beside Nie Tian in a split second. Without saying a word, he reached out to grab the bracelet of holding on Nie Tian's arm. "I only want the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core," he said indifferently. "Hand it to me and I'll spare your life."

“Dammit! He’s at the Worldly Realm!” Flabbergasted, Liu Yan said hastily, “Nie Tian! Give it to him now!”

Nie Tian felt a strong blast closing in on him. Lai Yi’s movement was too fast for his eyes to see. Before he could react, Lai Yi was already quite close to him, and had extended his hand out to grab his arm.

Only then did he hear Liu Yan’s words.

He was taken aback. “Worldly Realm!” Realizing that the gap between his strength and Lai Yi’s was far from bridgeable, he immediately took off the bracelet of holding and threw it to Lai Yi while taking a step backwards.

However, in the instant that bracelet of holding left his hand, he secretly took out and gripped the dragon bone in his palm.

“Smart choice, kid.” Lai Yi nodded and reached out to catch the bracelet of holding.

At that moment, Nie Tian turned around and ran into the direction they had come from at the fastest speed possible, while shouting, “Gan Kang is here! The fifth highest ranked equipment forger from the Treasure school is trying to escape and go to another realm!”

A few nearby experts from the Blood sect, who had been chasing

after the guests, were alerted by Nie Tian's shout, and rapidly converged upon them.

Hearing Nie Tian's shout, Gan Kang, who was already in the cave, turned grim and said, "Since I'm determined to leave, there's no reason for me to be afraid of offending Eccentric Wu... Kill that brat for me!"

After grabbing the bracelet of holding, Lai Yi examined it with his soul power, and then burst into a flaming rage. "Brat!! You dare to trick me! You're seeking death!"

Attracted by Nie Tian's shout, a few experts from the Blood sect appeared one after another.

"Over there!"

"There are people over there!"

Chapter 106: Returning to the Rightful Owner

An expert from the Blood sect who was wearing a long, tattered, blood-red robe suddenly arrived. With a malicious grin, he said, “Hey everyone! It actually is Gan Kang from the Treasure school! We’ve caught a big fish!”

A bloody, suffocating light flashed across his narrowed eyes. He didn’t hesitate at all before waving a dark-red magic staff and releasing one of the most deadly forbidden techniques of the Blood sect.

“Reverse Blood Flow!”

In an instant, a bloody light that could cover the heavens appeared in midair, which seemed like rivers of viscous blood flowing towards the crowd.

Several more Blood sect experts arrived after him, and also started to cast their spells.

Layers after layers of bloody light rapidly spread out, along with a strange magnetic field that could cause one’s blood flow to reverse.

A few nearby corpses of some guests who had been recently killed suddenly exploded.

Streams of blood spurted out of them and swirled up into the air, before condensing and morphing into a group of blurry blood shades.

Nie Tian, who was attempting to run further away from Lai Yi, suddenly felt that he had lost control of his own blood.

However, he wasn't the only one to be affected by the forbidden technique, Reverse Blood Flow.

The faces of Lai Yi and his friend, who was about to make a move against An Shiyi, also flushed. From the look of it, they were trying their best to restrain the abnormal movements of their blood.

“Dammit!” Cursing in a low voice and casting a vicious glance at Nie Tian, Lai Yi was seized by the regret that he hadn't killed Nie Tian and snatched his bracelet of holding at the first possible moment.

His original plan had been to slaughter everyone present as soon as he had obtained the bracelet of holding and confirmed that the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core were inside.

The reason he didn't attack the moment they met was that he feared that the Blood Core wasn't in Nie Tian's bracelet of holding, and that he had hid it somewhere else.

“Kill Gan Kang first!”

As soon as the Blood sect experts successfully activated the forbidden technique, Reverse Blood Flow, all of them blurred into streams of bloody light, directly shooting towards Gan Kang.

Standing at the mouth of the stone cave, which still had residual flames sputtering out of it, Gan Kang's face was as gloomy as lake water. He looked over towards Lai Yi and said, "I'll leave it for you to handle things here!"

With these words, he didn't spare anyone else a glance before bolting into the stone cave.

The arrival of the handful of experts from the Blood sect had turned the situation around, since they all knew who he was and viewed him as their primary target.

Gan Kang knew perfectly well that if he wasted too much time there, he would only sink deeper and deeper into danger.

Therefore, he had even stopped caring about capturing An Shiyi alive. All he wanted now was to get out of there as soon as possible.

An expert from the Blood sect laughed as he was about to overtake Lai Yi and chase after Gan Kang into the stone cave. "Wait, Elder Gan, have you an appointment or something?"

The other two Blood sect experts quietly scanned the area and then targeted the other two foreign Qi warriors, as well as Liu Yan, Shi Yi, Luo Xin, and others who had higher cultivation bases.

In their eyes, Nie Tian, Jiang Lingzhu, Ye Gumo, Zheng Bin, and An Ying were so weak that they didn't attach any importance to them.

“Don't you move!”

With a cold harrumph, a long, thin animal bone covered in short dense fur suddenly appeared in Lai Yi's hand. The animal bone was over one meter long and seemed to be the leg bone of a spirit beast.

The moment it appeared, a strong, rotten smell immediately filled the air.

The expression of the Blood sect expert, who was just about to run past him, suddenly flickered as he said, “You're from the Realm of Dark Underworld?”

Lai Yi let out a low-pitched laugh and said, “Gan Kang is one of us now. You'd better stay out of our business.”

The expert from the Blood sect snorted. “So what if you're from the Realm of Dark Underworld? This is the Realm of Flame Heaven. I doubt that you can do whatever you want here with just the three of you!”

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Rays of bloody light shot out from the Blood Sect expert. They interweaved before suddenly condensing into a vicious, man-eating beast that reeked of blood. Without a moment's pause, it lunged towards Lai Yi.

Lai Yi brandished the animal bone, and the fur on the animal bone stood up.

A rotten aura started to build up on Lai Yi's palm, which seemed to be resonating with the animal bone in his hand.

The intense, bloody odor from the bloody beast that was charging towards Lai Yi seemed to be affected by some kind of unknown rotting power. It was actually withering away.

When it reached Lai Yi, its intense blood aura had already decayed by about eighty percent.

Lai Yi swept the animal bone towards it, and the vicious beast turned into a cluster of blood mist that dissipated into the wind.

At the same time, the other experts from the Blood sect began to fight with the two foreign Qi warriors as well as Liu Yan, Shi Yi, and the others.

Not involved in the battle, Nie Tian observed and realized that everyone who had been affected by the disrupted magnetic field created by the Reverse Blood Flow was experiencing great difficulty as they battled.

They seemed as if they had to spend a major part of their energy resisting the strange movement of the blood inside of them.

The faces of Pan Tao, Ye Gumo, and the others, who hadn't been attacked, also slightly flushed. They seemed to be nailed on the ground, and using all their strength to try to get rid of the anomaly in their blood.

Nie Tian, on the other hand, had long since regained his normal blood flow after experiencing a brief influence.

Actually, he was already free to move about!

He whispered to himself, "Strange..."

As he recalled, he felt that his blood had also changed when the Reverse Blood Flow spell was activated.

However, it had only lasted a moment before he went back to normal and was no longer affected.

PUFF!

While he stood there in confusion, scarlet blood strings suddenly emerged from the stone ground around him.

They came out of the earth like madly growing weeds, slowly

reaching into the air at a speed that was visible to the naked eye.

“The Earth Web!” Nie Tian exclaimed.

The Blood sect witch Yu Tong had once activated this very same forbidden technique in the Green Illusion dimension and had instantly killed a few people from the Mystic Mist sect with the scarlet blood strings.

The scarlet blood strings that were now emerging from the earth, seemed to be far denser than the ones that Yu Tong had used in the Green Illusion dimension, and the intensity of the Qi and blood within them was also far more astonishing!

They swayed in midair for a second before suddenly flashing and piercing towards everyone who wasn't from the Blood sect.

Everyone except Nie Tian!

He remained where he stood and didn't move a bit. However, those scarlet blood strings seemed to have either failed to detect him or intentionally ignored him.

“How is this happening?” After a moment of confusion, he started to use his psychic awareness to examine himself, and found that there seemed to be a weak aura of the Blood sect inside of him.

He had an epiphany.

When he was in the Green Illusion dimension, he had been trapped and pierced by Yu Tong's countless scarlet blood strings, and almost had his blood drained by them.

However, he had managed to live through their attack. Even more miraculously, he had taken advantage of his uniqueness and refined those numerous blood strings.

It was also because of that a weak aura of the Blood sect had been left inside of him.

Those scarlet blood strings that emerged out of the ground seemed to be able to distinguish between the disciples of the Blood sect and others, as those who possessed the aura of the Blood sect wouldn't become their target of attack.

In this way, he once again remained unscathed while everyone else was being attacked by the sky-filling scarlet blood strings.

FIZZ!

The foreign Qi warrior, who had previously planned to capture An Shiyi, didn't pay attention to the changes to the ground below him while he was fighting with an expert from the Blood sect, causing his left leg to be penetrated by a bundle of scarlet blood strings.

He immediately let out a piercing screech.

After he was entangled, even more scarlet blood strings converged onto him from every direction.

Only seconds later, being unable to move, he was pierced through all over by the countless scarlet blood strings.

BLUB! BLUB!

Nie Tian clearly saw that after those blood strings pierced into that man's body, they began to relentlessly drink his blood like bloodsucking leeches.

His mighty body rapidly shriveled while the blood strings grew to be as thick as a finger.

Meanwhile, Pan Tao, Jiang Lingzhu, and the others, who hadn't been attacked by the Blood sect experts, were being attacked by the scarlet blood strings. Squeaky cries escaped from their throats as they frantically slashed at the blood strings with their spiritual tools.

After a long time of resistance, they finally broke free from the strange movement of their blood, and could move freely again.

Nie Tian had originally been standing quite far from Lai Yi, but now was calmly walking within the net of scarlet blood strings as he quietly approached him.

His eyes were fixed on his bracelet of holding which was now on Lai Yi's arm.

The Flame Dragon Armor and the dragon bone in his hand were clearly a set. If he hadn't learned about the existence of the Flame Dragon Armor, he would have walked away. But, now that he knew that the Flame Dragon Armor was absolutely much more than an ordinary item, he couldn't suppress his desire to take it back.

"Flame Dragon Armor..."

Staring at the bracelet of holding, he racked his brains to think of a method to regain the Flame Dragon Armor.

"Flame Dragon Armor, Flame Dragon Armor, Flame Dragon Armor..."

When he whispered its name in his heart while contemplating, a faint aura of flesh and blood rippled out from within his body, due to some unknown reason.

He was still dozens of meters away from Lai Yi, while the Flame Dragon Armor was still in the bracelet of holding. However, he suddenly had a feeling that he had established a mysterious connection with the Flame Dragon Armor.

In the next moment, he noticed that the dragon bone that he had been gripping in his hand had suddenly grown incomparably hot.

“Ahh!”

Lai Yi, who was fighting with a Blood sect expert, suddenly let out a maddened howl and started to violently shake his arm. The bracelet of holding on his wrist was now releasing terrifying flames.

Terrified, he quickly tossed away the bracelet of holding that he had snatched from Nie Tian.

Nie Tian's eyes lit up. Surprised by what had just happened, he passed through the net of scarlet blood strings and picked up the bracelet of holding from the ground.

Chapter 107: A Small Chance to Survive

The bracelet of holding was still flickering with flames when it landed on the ground.

It seemed that even Lai Yi, a cultivator at the Worldly Realm, had been unable to endure the heat of the flames released by the bracelet, and had no other choice but to temporarily throw it away in order to concentrate on his fight with the Blood sect expert.

However, when Nie Tian reached out to grab it, the flames that had wreathed it suddenly went out.

Without spending any effort, he picked up the bracelet and put it back on his wrist.

Then he sent a strand of his consciousness into the bracelet and saw that everything was still inside the storage space, where he also found that traces of fire were being absorbed by the Flame Dragon Armor...

Nie Tian immediately realized that the sudden changes that had occurred to the bracelet, which had caused it to unleash blazing flames, had actually been triggered by the Flame Dragon Armor.

As for the reason why the Flame Dragon Armor had done such a thing, it was because he had been constantly calling its name in his heart, and that the dragon bone in his hand grew unbearably hot.

“The Flame Dragon Armor, the Blood Core...” Nie Tian pondered for a while and suddenly exclaimed, “The Blood Core is the key!”

BOOM!

A heaven-shaking, earth-shattering sound echoed out from the sky. Everyone had been caught up in fierce battles and didn't pay attention to the changes, but rather continued fighting their respective opponents.

Only Nie Tian raised his head to look at the sky after putting the bracelet of holding on his wrist.

There, he saw an enormous gray figure, which seemed to have been formed by a swarm of countless evil ghosts, rising from the main gate of the Spiritual Treasure sect and charging towards the sky.

It shot high up into the sky and immediately joined the woman who was sitting on the blood-colored lotus in attacking Fang Hui from the Treasure school.

Standing on a giant bronze cauldron, Fang Hui's expression flicked upon seeing the enormous gray figure rise into the sky. Without any hesitation, he shouted out with a voice that everyone could hear, “All disciples of the Spiritual school and Treasure school are no longer required to guard the valley! Do all you can to escape and return only when the sect regroups!”

Upon hearing these words, Nie Tian's expression slightly flickered.

He immediately realized that the enormous gray figure was definitely the Profound Realm expert from the Ghost sect!

If it was only the woman from the Blood sect, Fang Hui felt that with his strength, the Spiritual Treasure sect would still have a hope to make it through the battle.

However, the enormous gray figure soaring up into the sky made him realize that the strongest expert from the Ghost sect had also arrived.

He knew very clearly that he had no chance of winning a fight against two Profound Realm experts. At the most, he could keep the two of them busy and prevent them from immediately starting a massacre.

With the strongest experts from the Blood sect and the Ghost sect having arrived, it meant that the Ghost sect and the Blood sect had already played their trump cards.

There was no longer any possibility that the Spiritual Treasure sect could persist.

In order to preserve the strength of the sect, he ordered all of the disciples from the Spiritual school and Treasure school to stop defending the valley and find an opportunity to escape instead.

After hearing Fang Hui's order, many Qi warriors from the Spiritual school and Treasure school were secretly grateful and immediately changed their plans, no longer determined to die with the sect.

“Let's go! “

“The grand elder has spoken; no need to keep defending the sect! Let's get out first!”

“Retreat to the Cloudsoaring sect, Grayvale sect, and Mystic Mist sect. They will definitely come to our aid once they receive the news.”

“As long as we can team up with the experts from the other three sects, we'll still have a chance to reclaim the valley!”

...

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Soon after Fang Hui gave the order, the numerous pillars of flame that had been blocking the area between the stone peaks suddenly shot up into the sky, converging into the enormous bronze cauldron.

Everyone, including the disciples of the Spiritual school and

Treasure school and visiting guests, had noticed the changes that had occurred in the valley and let out loud shouts.

“The valley has lost its protection! The Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation has completely stopped working!”

“The grand elder has opened the gates for us!”

“Let’s get out of here!”

Nie Tian scanned his surroundings before his eyes suddenly lit up.

There were three stone peaks surrounding the valley that the Spiritual Treasure sect was located in, and between them there were three enormous gaps.

One of the gaps was the main gate to the valley, which was the only way to enter or leave the valley.

The other two enormous gaps had previously been completely blocked by two blazing walls formed by numerous flame pillars. They served as gates of fire, separating the valley from the outside world.

The advantage to having them in place was that experts from the Ghost sect and the Blood sect wouldn’t be able to enter the valley from those two gaps.

The disadvantage would be that disciples of the Spiritual school and Treasure school within the valley also wouldn't be able to evacuate via those two gaps.

It was exactly because the blazing gates had sealed up the nearest gaps that Nie Tian had to follow Pan Tao and try to reach the outside world through the tunnel in the stone peak.

However, by this point, the flame pillars that had formed the blazing walls had been lifted up to the sky by Fang Hui's enormous bronze cauldron, making those two gaps thoroughfares that led out of the valley.

Nie Tian noticed that after Fang Hui gave the permission to leave, many disciples from the Spiritual school and Treasure school rushed towards those two new exits.

Now, they were very close to one of them.

Liu Yan roared, "Nie Tian! Lingzhu, Ye Gumo! Don't mind us! Just go!"

"Come on, let's go!" Pan Tao also shouted and took the initiative to charge towards the closest gap, noticing that currently none of the experts from the Ghost sect or the Blood sect had showed up near the gap.

An Shiyi, An Ying, as well as Zheng Bin and Han Xin, also saw the

opportunity to live, and after dodging the attacks of the scarlet blood strings, they made a run towards the opened gate of life.

Nie Tian was never targeted by the scarlet blood strings, therefore, after hearing Liu Yan's urging, he only hesitated for a second before saying to Liu Yan, "Take care of yourself, Uncle Liu!"

With these words, he quickly followed An Shiyi, An Ying, and the others in dashing towards the gap.

The experts from the Blood sect were bent on killing Lai Yi, Liu Yan, Shi Yi, and the other worthy enemies. Even though they were fully aware that Nie Tian and the others were trying to escape, they didn't care in the least bit.

The way they saw it, the scarlet blood strings that had emerged from the ground would lock onto Nie Tian and his peers and keep launching relentless attacks on them wherever they went.

They believed that considering the cultivation bases of Nie Tian and the others, even if they managed to temporarily leave the valley, the blood strings would still be able to catch up and kill them one after another.

Moreover, they didn't have enough men in this region. Thus, they chose to ignore Nie Tian and his peers, and instead focused on their fight with Lai Yi, Liu Yan, and the other powerful ones.

“Dammit!”

Earlier, when Lai Yi saw Nie Tian pick up the bracelet of holding that he had cast away, he was already fuming with rage. Now that he saw Nie Tian leaving, he immediately flew into a towering outrage. However, the expert from the Blood sect who had been fighting with him didn't have the slightest intention of letting him go.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Even more scarlet blood strings emerged from the ground, madly chasing after them.

Unable to break free from the double attack of the annoying scarlet blood strings and the Blood sect expert, Lai Yi couldn't chase after Nie Tian. He could only curse him while madly drawing on his spiritual power.

Even as he cursed, Nie Tian got further and further away.

Pan Tao and An Shiyi, who had been running at the front, unceasingly urged An Ying, Jiang Lingzhu, and Nie Tian to keep up.

“This way!”

“Be quick!”

Before long, they were the first ones to escape from the valley after Fang Hui had lifted the barrier.

“Follow me!” Pan Tao led the way for them.

The group of people followed Pan Tao and sped away from the valley as fast as possible.

Nie Tian occasionally turned around to look back, and found that a number of red-garbed figures had gradually arrived around the gap that they had left from. Moments later, a few black-garbed experts from the Ghost sect, wreathed in thick, ghost-like auras, also showed up as well.

His heart sank, knowing that Liu Yan, Luo Xin, as well as the others who were still in the valley wouldn't have such an easy time passing through the gap like they did.

While moving further and further away from the gap, Nie Tian could still hear the continuous sounds of conversation from behind.

“How many have escaped?”

An ear-piercing voice echoed out from the gap behind them.

“A few juniors. Do we chase after them?”

“Juniors? No need for now. Block this path, and make sure those old guys won’t leave the valley for all eternity!”

He realized that those who hadn’t been able to leave at the first possible moment would have to go through a bloody baptism if they wished to pass through.

It would be impossible to know how many of them would manage to flee the valley and how many would die in there.

All he could do was to follow Pan Tao and advance forward at full speed through the forest of uneven mountain peaks of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

There was a forest of mountain peaks in the vast Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, with the Spiritual Treasure sect situated in between the three biggest ones. The moment they reached a relatively safe distance from the valley, Nie Tian unleashed his psychic awareness to scan the vicinity for experts from the Ghost sect or the Blood sect.

A vigorous life force suddenly appeared in his mind, which... didn’t seem to belong to a person from either the Ghost sect or the Blood sect.

It seemed that the person was also madly running away from the land of the Spiritual Treasure sect, just like them.

“There’s someone nearby.” Nie Tian suddenly said.

Hearing his words, An Shiyi, who was in the forefront, also probed around with her psychic power.

An Shiyi furrowed her delicate eyebrows. A loathing expression appeared on her charming face as she said, “That’s Fei Li.”

“Fei Li?” Puzzled, Nie Tian asked, “Sister An, how do you know that it’s him?”

“I can distinctly remember his disgusting aura!” An Shiyi clenched her teeth, suddenly remembering something. “Nie Tian, I heard that Fei Li refused to sell the Spiritfount Pill to you because of me?”

“That’s right,” said Nie Tian.

An Shiyi called out with a soft voice, “Let’s go take it back!”

Nie Tian was stunned. “Snatch it from Fei Li?”

An Shiyi snorted and said, “Since his master, Gan Kang, decided to leave the Spiritual Treasure sect, whatever happens to the Spiritual Treasure sect in the future, his disciple Fei Li will definitely be implicated, unless he follows Gan Kang out of the Realm of Flame Heaven. But even if he wants to flee the realm, I’ll make him cough up the Spiritfount Pill before he goes!”

With these words, An Shiyi, who was advancing forward, suddenly changed her direction and charged towards that person.

“Before, Fei Li only dared to threaten me over and over again because he was backed by his lofty master Gan Kang. Without his master’s protection, he wouldn’t even stand a chance against me. Just watch, I’ll definitely get the Spiritfount Pill for you!” An Shiyi sounded full of confidence.

Chapter 108: Hunter

Panicked, Fei Li was running for his life in a forest of ancient trees.

When the catastrophe hit the Spiritual Treasure sect, he hadn't been in the valley. Instead, he had been instructed by his master Gan Kang to go and run some errands.

Originally, he planned to return to the sect on the third day of the Treasure Convention, when the auction was scheduled to start.

However, when he returned, he saw that the moon in the sky was reddened by blood from afar.

Shortly thereafter, he heard the heaven-shaking, earth-shattering sounds of combat coming from the valley.

Then, he saw the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation that had been shielding the valley be torn apart, and grand elder Fang Hui rise into the sky on his enormous bronze cauldron.

In that moment, he understood that his chances of survival would be slim if he dared to return to the mountain valley.

Secretly glad that he wasn't there when it happened, he decided to abandon the sect, and get as far away as possible from the valley.

As for the life and death of his master Gan Kang, the Spiritual Treasure sect, as well as his martial brothers and sisters, he had already cast all of them out of his head.

“Fei Li, where are you going?” A fiery, beautiful woman suddenly emerged from behind a tree, coldly staring at him, her eyes full of ridicule and disdain.

It was An Shiyi.

An Shiyi, who was at the late Heaven stage, stood in front of Fei Li, blocking his way forward. A flaming intent to fight could be seen in her charming eyes. A bunch of orange, cloud-like flames floated out from within her and wreathed around her curvy body.

She took out a mysterious ribbon that was glittering with colorful light from her waist. With a swift waving motion, terrifying flames instantly shot out from the ribbon.

Fire had been her cultivation attribute since a very young age. Although An Shiyi had been cultivating with the Spiritual school, she had often dreamed of winning the favor of equipment forging masters of the Treasure school, and becoming a powerful equipment forger some day.

She had once foolishly believed that Gan Kang had valued her for her talent. It wasn't until recently that she came to the realization that the only thing that he saw in her was her appearance, not her talent in equipment forging and refining.

Fei Li's expression slightly flickered. "It's you?!"

He looked around suspiciously, unsure of why An Shiyi had suddenly appeared.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

It was also at that moment that Nie Tian, Pan Tao, Jiang Lingzhu, and the others caught up and arrived beside An Shiyi.

Fei Li grew even more astonished and confused. "How did you all get out?"

"Cut the crap!" An Shiyi's tone wasn't pleasant at all. She extended her hand towards Fei Yi and with a firm tone, she said, "Hand over the Spiritfount Pill, then you are free to go. I won't stop you. If you refuse, then don't blame me for not being polite."

"An Shiyi! You dare to demand the Spiritfount Pill from me?!" Fei Li burst into a flaming rage. Obviously, he didn't have a fully understanding of the situation. "Your clan is only a subordinate clan of the Spiritual Treasure sect! You dare to run away when the sect is in danger? Even your clan won't be able to protect you from the punishment! My master is the fifth highest ranked equipment forging expert in the Treasure school. Where did you get the nerve to demand the Spiritfount Pill from me?"

"If Gan Kang wasn't your master, I would've long since beaten you until every single one of your teeth fell out!" Old grudges and

new enmities against him surged forth, filling An Shiyi's heart. She couldn't waste another second arguing with him. She immediately made a move.

The mysterious ribbon in her hands was like a swaying rainbow of flames that instantly whipped towards Fei Li.

WHOOKSH!

Fei Li hadn't remained on guard, so the ribbon violently whipped him on his skinny cheek.

Not only was half of his face instantly swollen, it was even badly burned.

Fei Li covered his cheek as he screeched. "Bitch! You dare to attack me?!" He had never thought that An Shiyi, who had always been compromising, would actually make such a violent move against him.

Pan Tao furrowed his brows. Not wishing to waste any more time on Fei Li, he explained, "Elder Gan Kang has come to an agreement with several foreigners from the Realm of Dark Underworld. He's decided to leave the Spiritual Treasure sect and even the Realm of Flame Heaven, and follow those foreigners to the Realm of Dark Underworld.

"He's gone, and so is your backer in the Spiritual Treasure sect. As his disciple, you won't be able to talk your way out of your

responsibilities after your master defects.

“Hand over the Spiritfount Pill, and run as far as you can. I’d say go find your master and follow him to the Realm of Dark Underworld.”

Pan Tao knew that An Shiyi’s hate towards Fei Li was extremely deep, and also knew that An Shiyi was actually quite fierce, in distinct contrast to her gentle appearance.

Now that she had the chance to retaliate, she would naturally take the opportunity to make Fei Li suffer, so much so that she might even inflict serious damage on him.

Although Fei Li wasn’t much of a fighter, he was also at Heaven stage. Once the two got into a battle, it would definitely waste everyone’s time.

The reason why Pan Tao explained the situation to him was to let him have a clear understanding of the situation he was in and not fight An Shiyi to the death.

Fei Li was flabbergasted. His eyes flickered, as he seemed to have believed them. “My master... is going to the Realm of Dark Underworld? Here, take the Spiritfount Pill.”

Fei Li was surprisingly decisive. As soon as he understood the situation, he took out the case containing the Spiritfount Pill from his bracelet of holding and threw it towards Pan Tao without the

slightest hesitation.

Pan Tao, who caught the case, lifted its cover and took a sniff, before tossing it to An Shiyi.

An Shiyi took a close look at it, and gently nodded. “It is the Spiritfount Pill.”

Upon hearing her confirmation, Nie Tian’s heart was immediately filled with joy.

The Spiritfount Pill was extremely rare in the Realm of Flame Heaven. In his opinion, this pill, which could cure the injury that had troubled his grandfather for many years, was even more precious than the Flame Dragon Armor.

“Can I go now?” Fei Li asked.

An Shiyi waved her hand. “Go, get out of here! Now that you don’t have Gan Kang to back you, don’t let me see you again in the Realm of Flame Heaven. If I do...”

Without waiting for her to finish speaking, Fei Li coldly snorted before turning and leaving.

“Here, your Spiritfount Pill.” An Shiyi threw it over to Nie Tian.

Nie Tian caught the case, and didn’t even cast a glance at it, but

went ahead and stored it in his bracelet of holding. Smiling, he said, "Thanks, sister."

With a sweet smile, An Shiyi said, "I finally helped you fulfill a wish."

She had always been apologetic towards Nie Tian, knowing that because of her, he had offended Gan Kang. Otherwise, the Spiritfount Pill would've already been in Nie Tian's hands.

Not long ago, she and her sister An Ying had given up all hope and waited for death in that courtyard. However, it was also Nie Tian who had come to their rescue. He was even willing to compromise his own chance of survival, just so that she and her sister could leave together with them.

She also knew that the reason why Wu Xing had been willing to speak out and take on the sisters as his responsibility, was that he had given face to Nie Tian, not wishing Nie Tian to waste his time persuading them.

It was also because of her that Gan Kang had blocked up the stone tunnel and denied entrance for everyone, preventing them from escaping at the first possible moment.

She knew that she owed Nie Tian too much, and thus was always on the lookout for opportunities to repay him.

Now that she had helped him obtain the Spiritfount Pill, which

should have been his from the start, she finally felt a bit relieved and the smile on her face became lighter and brighter.

“Hey, we aren’t safe yet.” Pan Tao smiled bitterly. “Whatever you need to say, can you say it when we are far away from the valley and out of the range of the Ghost sect and Blood sect’s hunting?”

“You’re right.” An Shiyi pursed her mouth into a smile.

“Okay, lead the way please,” Nie Tian said.

...

At the exit where Nie Tian and the others had escaped from, many experts from the Blood sect were fighting fiercely with people from the Spiritual school, Treasure school, as well as Wu Xing and Dowager Weng.

All of a sudden, Yu Tong from the Blood sect ran out of the center of the valley and arrived in front of them.

“Martial Uncle Yang Yuan, did you see some Cloudsoaring sect juniors leave?” she inquired the one-armed expert from the Blood sect who was currently fighting with Wu Xing.

Yang Yuan answered without thinking, “Oh, those juniors were pretty lucky. They were the first ones to escape through here.”

Yu Tong, who was wearing a blood-red long dress, hurriedly asked, “Do you know who they were? What cultivation stage were they at?”

The expert from the Blood sect, who had previously fought with Lai Yi, was about to enter the stone cave to pursue the escaping Gan Kang and Lai Yi. After hearing Yu Tong’s words, he paused and said, “The leader was that An Shiyi from the Spiritual school, at the late Heaven stage. The others were all juniors who are only at the early Lesser Heaven stage.”

“Uncle Feng, can you come with me?” Yu Tong pleaded.

An expert from the Blood sect who had been following her nodded and sneered. “What I love the most is catching the mice that think that they’ve escaped.”

A bloody light flashed across in Yu Tong’s eyes. “I’ve asked around and confirmed that the disciple that Eccentric Wu has just taken in also came here, and he should be among those juniors!”

Yang Yuan was surprised. “The same Nie Tian that you’ve been talking about for the past half year?”

“Exactly!” A heaven-shaking killing intent could be heard from Yu Tong’s words.

Yang Yuan nodded and turned to the Blood sect expert behind Yu

Tong. “Feng Luo, that Nie Tian kid is Little Tong’s mental devil which has been dragging her cultivation down. Go help her clear her mind.”

“Got it.” Feng Luo let out a cunning laugh.

The experts from the Blood sect knew that Yu Tong had been severely injured and was unconscious when she returned from the Green Illusion dimension. She had spent a long time in recovery.

After recovering, Yu Tong had practiced even harder, and was now stronger than ever.

However, it seemed that she couldn’t forget about a youngster called Nie Tian, and asked everywhere for his whereabouts. It wasn’t until hearing that he had been accepted as a disciple to Wu Ji, did she give up on the idea of going to Black Cloud City and killing Nie Tian.

They could all see that, if Nie Tian didn’t die, he would eventually become a mental barrier on Yu Tong’s cultivation path. Therefore, they all supported her decision to kill him here.

“Let’s go, Uncle Feng!” Yu Tong and Feng Luo ran past the people who were fighting at the exit, and bolted after Nie Tian and the others.

Chapter 109: Nie Tian's Unruliness

Right after Yu Tong and Feng Luo left, an old woman with a wrinkled face slowly approached, supporting herself with a serpent staff. “Where is Little Tong?”

Upon seeing her, numerous experts from the Blood sect all greeted her with a humble attitude, one after another. “Grandma Shen.”

Her name was Shen Xiu, and her status in the Blood sect was only second to the sectmaster. She was also Yu Tong's master.

The scarlet blood strings that had emerged from underground were from the Earth Web spell that she had cast. The reason why she had hurried to this place was that she was worried that Yu Tong would act rashly.

Yang Yuan answered without thinking, “Yu Tong went after the juniors from the Cloudsoaring sect. Grandma Shen, it seems that the Earth Web... wasn't fully formed, was it?”

Considering Shen Xiu's cultivation base, if the Earth Web had been completely formed, every Qi warrior in the valley would experience disorder in their blood for at least a quarter of an hour.

Given so much time, the experts from Blood sects could have started a massacre and gained an overwhelming advantage.

However, Yang Yuan had noticed that the scarlet blood strings that emerged from the ground hadn't actually bound their opponents down for very long. Furthermore, they failed to extend outside of the valley to pursue Nie Tian and his group who had escaped.

“There is flaming magma and earth flame running deep below the ground of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, so down there the activities of the Earth Web are quite limited.” With a brief frown, Shen Xiu continued, “What's more, the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation seems to have reached deeply into the ground. There were even networks of it within the boiling magma.

“Never underestimate their grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation. From what I see, this enormous spell doesn't only cover the valley where the Spiritual Treasure sect resides.

“The whole Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, including the extinct volcanoes on its perimeter, seems to also be within its coverage.

“As soon as my Earth Web reached deep towards the earth's core, it was immediately influenced by the network of the grand formation and couldn't fully condense.”

With these words, Shen Xiu suddenly looked down beneath her feet and said, “For some reason, I have a feeling that there is something odd deep below the ground of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. I can't say for sure what it is, but I keep having the feeling that the spell formation doesn't just exist to protect the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“I could also sense an aura... of suppression and sealing from the network of the flames.”

Before she could finish her words, the master of the Spiritual school, Hou Zhengchen, suddenly appeared in the distance and dashed towards her. “Shen Xiu!”

There seemed to be a trace of anxiety and worry in Hou Zhengchen’s eyes. He seemed... to not want Shen Xiu to say too much.

The serpent staff in Shen Xiu’s hands abruptly gave off an immense amount of bright, bloody light rays as she charged towards Hou Zhengchen.

...

Below a short, sparsely-vegetated mountain in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range...

“We should have a rest.” Pan Tao stopped. As the night gradually lifted, he looked at the bright and clear morning sky and said, “We’ve spent the entire night marching at full speed. Plus, everyone spent a large amount of spiritual power earlier dealing with the scarlet blood strings that emerged from the ground. If we keep hastening on blindly and don’t stop to recover strength, we won’t be able to deal with any unexpected crises that pop up.”

Nie Tian subconsciously unleashed his psychic awareness to scan his surroundings. Luckily, he didn't detect any sign of life fluctuations.

He nodded and agreed, "He's right, we do need some rest."

He glanced around and saw lots of caves of unequal sizes on the side of the sparsely vegetated mountain, which seemed dark and deep, their insides hard to see clearly.

An Shiyi noticed his sweeping glance, and explained to him in a soft voice, "We are still within the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. There are a large number of extinct volcanoes in this area. It's said that there are still many high-ranked fire-attribute spirit stones hidden deep under them.

"Disciples from the Spiritual Treasure sect would often try out their luck in these extinct volcanoes and see if they could find some high-ranked fire-attribute spirit stones.

"That's also why they drilled open a large number of caves inside these mountains.

"Every single cave is connected to the belly of the mountain peak or even to the deepest part of the earth. Those people all dreamed of getting lucky and obtaining some high-ranked fire-attribute spirit stones. No matter whether they used them to refine spiritual tools or advance their own cultivation, they'll benefit a great deal from them."

Pan Tao added, “Within the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, the only active volcanoes that can still channel raging flames from the earth’s core are the three volcanoes surrounding the Spiritual Treasure sect’s valley. The seniors in the sect have been using the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation to restrain the three of them from erupting, as well as to take advantage of the raging flames from the earth’s core to refine spiritual tools.

“After many explorations, the other volcanoes are determined to have long since grown inactive. However every one of them used to be active and violent ten thousand years ago.

“As long as lava had once filled the belly of a mountain peak, its interior part might possibly produce fire-attributed spiritual materials. The majority of the spiritual materials have long since been mined, leaving behind only a very little portion in the deepest parts. It would require a lot of work as well as good luck in order for one to obtain some of the remaining pieces.”

Pan Tao led everyone into a cave for a short rest while explaining.

An Shiyi raised her voice and said, “We can rest here for two hours at most. In two hours, no matter how much strength we’ve recovered, we’ll have to head out again.”

With Liu Yan, Shi Yi, and Luo Xin gone, she was the person with the highest cultivation base among everyone.

Naturally, she became the leader of the group of juniors.

Soon, everyone had picked a cave and hidden themselves within, using spirit stones to recover their strength.

The caves were very close to each other. So long as one person spoke, others would be able to hear them.

The group, bent on leaving the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range as soon as possible, wasn't in the mood to explore the seemingly bottomless caves. The fire-attributed spiritual materials that could possibly still be remaining in the caves didn't interest them in the slightest. Instead, all of them concentrated on regaining strength.

Nie Tian felt the same.

After finding a cave and hiding himself within, he took out a spirit stone and was about to restore the spiritual power in his spiritual sea.

Just as he was about to operate the Qi Refining Incantation, his expression suddenly flickered, as an idea struck him. Instantly, he took out the dragon bone and the Flame Dragon Armor out of his bracelet of holding and placed them on the ground next to him.

Only until then did he calm himself and begin to absorb energy from the spirit stone.

In the middle of practicing, he once again felt the extreme heat

that the dragon bone had emanated. At the same time, he also noticed the energy within his flesh and blood secretly flowing into the Flame Dragon Armor.

The incomparably heavy Flame Dragon Armor gradually started to radiate a dark-red luster, as if it were being nourished by his flesh power.

After a while, he realized that the animal bone was becoming increasingly hot, and also started to give off a bright fiery light.

“What?!”

Slightly surprised, he sent out a thread of his psychic power to examine it, and immediately found that there were numerous fiery threads wriggling and twisting inside the dragon bone, gathering towards the blood drop in the center.

The drop of blood had shrunk significantly because it had previously exhausted a huge amount of energy teleporting him in and out of the mysterious land.

However, at that moment, as the fiery threads swam inside the animal bone, he could keenly feel a strange gravitational force gradually generating.

Before long, he sensed that a growing number of fiery threads were filling up the inside of his cave.

He closed his eyes to trace the origin of the fiery threads with his psychic awareness. He noticed that they appeared to be coming from the dark stone tunnel behind him, which seemed to be leading to the deepest part of the short mountain.

As an increasingly large amount of fiery threads continuously gathered towards the mouth of the cave, and gradually flowed into the animal bone, he noticed that the blood drop within the dragon bone was growing.

After observing for a while, Nie Tian snapped open his eyes, and suddenly remembered the strange incident that had occurred in Nie clan mine. “Could it be that...”

Back when he was in the Nie clan mine, he had placed the dragon bone on top of a Flamecloud gem, and it surprisingly drained all of the flame power of every last Flamecloud gem in the entire mine.

The fiery threads that were converging to this place from deep part of the stone tunnel clearly also contained abundant flame power.

Furthermore, the flame power seemed to be even purer.

CLANG!

Just as he was astonished by his new findings, the dragon bone suddenly flew up and embedded itself into the perfectly matching hole on the chest of the Flame Dragon Armor.

All of a sudden, the Flame Dragon Armor released surging flames, as if it had suddenly transformed into a burning sun, and pulsed with frightening flame fluctuations.

Before Nie Tian could react, the Flame Dragon Armor rose up by itself and flew towards the depths of the gloomy and endless stone tunnel.

Nie Tian opened his eyes wide. He didn't understand what had just happened, and could only stand up and quickly yell to inform An Shiyi, who was in the cave next to his, "I have to take care of some urgent matter! When the time comes, you guys don't have to wait for me, just leave!"

"Nie Tian! What the hell are you doing?" An Shiyi shouted.

Other members of the group, who were still recovering, were also awakened. One after another they opened their eyes and recovered from their practicing state.

Five seconds later, everyone gathered in Nie Tian's cave, only to find that he was already gone.

Nie Tian's distant voice echoed out from the deep part of the stone tunnel. "I'm serious! Forget about me! You guys just leave!"

Zheng Bin and Han Xin, who were from the Black Mist Palace, both had unpleasant expressions on their faces while looking into

the gloomy and bottomless stone tunnel.

Han Xin couldn't hold it down any longer and complained, "This guy, he always manages to get in all sorts of trouble! Throughout our whole journey, he has been wasting everyone's time! If not for him, perhaps we would have already passed through the cave that was guarded by Gan Kang and left the Spiritual Treasure sect, even before the flaming gates were lifted.

"If not for him, perhaps Dowager Weng wouldn't have been trapped in such a dangerous situation!"

Han Xin had repressed her emotions for a long time. Now that she saw Nie Tian causing trouble again at a crucial moment, she finally decided to say angrily, "Whoever wants to wait for him, be my guest. I sure as hell won't stay here and wait for his return!"

Zheng Bin's expression was also grim. "No matter how much he desires those fire-attributed spirit stones, he shouldn't try out his luck at such a crucial moment. Much less when the fire-attributed spirit stones here were probably long since mined by disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect. Even if there are any left behind somewhere, he won't be able to find them any time soon."

Aside from trying to find fire-attributed spirit stones, he couldn't think of any other reason that would make Nie Tian leave the group so determinedly.

He became deeply disappointed in Nie Tian and he didn't want to waste any more of his own time. "Sorry everyone, but we have to

leave now.” With these words, both he and Han Xin took the initiative and left the group. They rushed out of the cave and headed in the direction of the Mystic Mist sect.

Only the An sisters, Pan Tao, Jiang Lingzhu, and Ye Gumo were left standing in the cave, staring blankly at each other.

“We’ll stay and wait for him.” An Shiyi sat down on the ground and with a calm tone, she said, “His unruliness is the reason that my sister and I are still alive. If it weren’t for his unruliness, elder Wu Xing would have ignored us, and we probably have already been murdered by the Blood sect experts. Therefore, no matter how long it takes, we’ll wait.”

An Ying also sat down without saying a word.

Pan Tao gave a bitter smile as he shook his head and also sat down silently.

Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo exchanged a glance. She said, “That little punk is our little martial uncle, so according to the seniority in the clan, we have to listen to him.”

Inwardly, Jiang Lingzhu hated Nie Tian to the point where she wanted to grit her teeth. But instead of demanding to leave, she chose to sit down and wait, while cursing him in a low voice. Each and every sentence she uttered was to grumble about Nie Tian’s recklessness, bad timing, and deadly greed.

“Aihh...” Ye Gumo let out a deep sigh as he too could only sit down and wait with the others.

Chapter 110: Crystal Net at Earth's Core

Nie Tian headed deeper and deeper into the dark and endless tunnel as he pursued the sparks released by the Flame Dragon Armor.

There had always been some kind of link between him and the dragon bone that was now embedded within the armor, so he didn't need to search for it with his psychic awareness.

Even without the sparks given off by the Flame Dragon Armor, he would have still been able to accurately locate its position just by relying on the subtle interactions between the dragon bone and himself.

The stone tunnel built by the equipment forgers of the Spiritual Treasure sect seemed unfathomable. Nie Tian continued his way downwards, not knowing how much distance he had covered. Suddenly, he came to a stop.

He didn't stop because he was tired, but rather because the Flame Dragon Armor had reached the end of the tunnel.

The end of the tunnel was so narrow that only two people could stand shoulder to shoulder in it, and at the very end, there was evidence of mining here and there.

The Flame Dragon Armor, together with the dragon bone in it, released raging flames while fiercely striking the stones at the end of the tunnel.

CRACK! CRACK!

The solid stone wall at the end immediately exploded into tiny bits. It was as if the Flame Dragon Armor had turned into a sharp drill, unceasingly boring its way downwards.

Nie Tian stared blankly at the Flame Dragon Armor as it forcefully opened up a new path using such a method.

He was clueless about what was happening. However, he was aware that he would put himself in great danger if he were to spend too much time down there without doing anything.

“Flame Dragon Armor, Blood Core...” He called out the words in his heart over and over, hoping that the Flame Dragon armor would hear his voice and return to his bracelet of holding like it had before.

He was fully aware that other people might be unwilling to wait for him. In fact, they might have already left without him. But An Shiyi would very likely stay and wait for him because of the gratitude she held towards him.

Staying there for too long would make it really easy for experts from both the Blood sect and Ghost sect to detect their aura, and possibly put An Shiyi in a dangerous situation.

He only hoped that the Flame Dragon Armor would respond to

his cries, stop its exploration towards the earth core, and return to the surface with him as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, it appeared that neither did the Flame Dragon Armor nor the Blood Core hear his cries. They seemed to be still drilling with all their might towards the depths of the earth.

He felt helpless. He was fully aware that staying any longer would further endanger him, but he couldn't bear to abandon the Flame Dragon Armor. Therefore, he could only follow it deeper and deeper.

CRUNCH!

A huge amount of crushed rock was dug up by the Flame Dragon Armor, causing a blockage further back in the stone tunnel.

Nie Tian would swiftly dodge the flying rocks, making his way forward before the stone tunnel was blocked. He kept a few meters away from the Flame Dragon Armor while proceeding downwards.

The miraculous Flame Dragon Armor seemed to have gone crazy for unknown reasons, breaking out with astonishing power and madly drilling towards the earth core like a sharp awl.

Trembling with fear, Nie Tian followed along. The further he felt he was from the surface, the more anxious he became.

BOOM!

After an unknown period of time, a clash could be heard as a huge stone exploded upon the strike by the Flame Dragon Armor, leaving a huge open space.

The Flame Dragon Armor remained unmoving there, as if it were hesitating.

Nie Tian noticed that strange gurgling sounds, coupled with a red mist, were coming out from under it.

He could smell sulfur in air.

“What’s going on?” He slowly drew closer and observed with rapt attention. His expression suddenly flickered.

He saw blazing magma filling the bottom of the huge hole, which flowed and had enormous, flaming bubbles emerging out of it, releasing a red mist.

Nie Tian stood there aghast. “Is that magma from the earth core? But, shouldn’t this be an extinct volcano?”

According to Pan Tao, long, long ago, the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range had once been covered with numerous lava-spurting volcanoes. But, as times changed, the only remaining active volcanoes on the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range became the three surrounding the Spiritual Treasure sect.

Furthermore, those three had been controlled by the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, and thus would never erupt blazing earth flames.

The raging magma at the earth's core below the three volcanoes had been channeled by the spell formation, flowing into the equipment forging caves and facilitating the equipment forging process.

Whenever the Spiritual Treasure sect was hit by calamity, the defense of the grand formation would be activated; fierce magma would be drawn out from the earth core and turned into the source of energy, propelling the entire formation.

Apart from the three of them, the rest of the peaks of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range were all extinct volcanoes that hadn't erupted for countless years.

The earth flame beneath them had long since disappeared, not leaving a trace.

However, with the continuous digging of the Flame Dragon Armor, deep beneath the surface of the small volcano that had been declared extinct by Pan Tao, he actually saw fiercely burning magma flowing!

He suddenly came to a realization. "Has the Flame Dragon Armor come for the magma?"

The Blood Core required a huge amount of flame power in order to condense the drop of blood, and the formation of it would lead to a good deal of usage.

The Blood Core had absorbed every last bit of the flame power contained in the flamecloud gems in the Nie clan to condense that drop of blood.

The drop of blood seemed to have consumed a huge amount of energy, and had shrunk several-fold after teleporting him in and out of the mysterious land.

Now, the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core seemed to be after a more intense and surging flame energy. The fierce magma flowing at the earth's core seemed to be exactly what the Flame Dragon Armor needed.

However, the Flame Dragon Armor had obviously pierced its way through layers upon layers of the thick stones to reach this place. Why did it now seem somewhat hesitant?

While he was frowning in confusion, he suddenly saw the Flame Dragon Armor plummet towards the huge, magma-filled hole while emanating heaven-shaking flames.

At that moment, an unusual change suddenly occurred!

The boiling magma seemed hot enough to instantly turn any living creature into a pile of blood. Within the thin layer of space

above it, numerous bright, glittering ribbons suddenly emerged.

They looked as if they were formed as a result of mixing jades and crystals, but were at the same time, long and soft like silk.

The countless crystal-like ribbons, that reflected various colors, interweaved with each other, and like a large, elegant net, covered the surface of the magma.

At first glance, Nie Tian noticed that the crystal-like ribbons were like veins, with numerous exquisite magical symbols running along in them.

The magical symbols each had a different color and shape. Some looked like tree leaves, some looked like stars, while some looked like wiggling, ferocious beasts. Many of them looked quite bizarre.

Overwhelmed, Nie Tian's face turned pale. "These are the ancient magical symbols that equipment forgers of ancient times used to channel the power of heaven and earth!"

Recently, he had learned quite a few things regarding ancient Qi warriors from Wu Ji. He had also obtained a brief understanding of those profound, ancient magical symbols, and he was still learning.

Evidently, the delicate and beautiful magical symbols flowing within those crystal-like ribbons were the ancient magical symbols that contained a mysterious power capable of connecting heaven

and earth and reforming mountains and rivers.

Only at that moment did he realize that the ribbons had been there all along. It was just that they had been so well hidden that they were hard to find.

FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ!

All of a sudden, glaring light shot out from the magical symbols.

An irresistible surge of power burst forth from the mesh of ribbons, charging directly towards the Flame Dragon Armor.

In the middle of its dive toward the magma, the Flame Dragon Armor was pushed back by the invisible force. It fell onto a piece of rock next to Nie Tian's feet.

After its attempt had been denied by those crystal-like ribbons, the Flame Dragon Armor seemed less radiant.

"It seemed that they are stopping the Flame Dragon Armor from diving into the magma. It also seemed that they are sealing and holding down the boiling magma, preventing it from rushing out from the earth's core and spouting madly." Nie Tian went blank for a while, his wide eyes full of amazement. He wondered why those densely interlaced ribbons existed at the heart of the earth.

WHOOSH!

While Nie Tian was contemplating, the Flame Dragon Armor once again flew out. It plummeted straight down towards the magma filling the bottom of the huge hole.

Just like last time, the numerous, elegant, ancient magical symbols within the crystal-like ribbons suddenly lit up.

In the next second, Nie Tian saw the Flame Dragon Armor once again pushed back by an enormous force, bouncing back.

By this point, Nie Tian was convinced that the reason why the Flame Dragon Armor refused to return to his bracelet of holding and insisting on piercing into the earth core was to dive into the flaming magma.

However, unfortunately, the ribbons covering the magma seemed to be preventing any objects or living creatures from entering.

Not only that, it was also stopping the boiling, violent magma from rushing out of the earth's core and making this extinct volcano blazing and rampant again.

Seconds later, the Flame Dragon Armor once again made an attempt under Nie Tian's gaze.

However, the result was the same.

After three failed attempts, the flaming light released by the Flame Dragon Armor gradually turned dim.

It finally calmed and stopped making moves. Nevertheless, it still ignored Nie Tian's urgings and insisted on staying outside his bracelet.

It seemed to be reluctant to give up, and waiting for something.

Time slipped away little by little. Nie Tian suddenly noticed that the fiery mist, that had boiled out from the magma, was flowing into the Blood Core on the chest plate of the Flame Dragon Armor.

The mist rose from the magma in the earth's core, so it also possessed faint flame power.

After three fruitless attempts, the Flame Dragon Armor seemed to have exhausted its power, and it was now storing up energy using the faint, fiery mist, preparing for its next attempt.

Deep down, Nie Tian felt extremely anxious. He wanted to leave that bloody place as soon as possible, and get out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

However, the Flame Dragon Armor was still waiting. He couldn't bear to abandon the Flame Dragon Armor, so he had no choice but to wait.

Until that moment, he was gradually convinced that Flame

Dragon Armor, in its complete form was a Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool!

Only Spirit Channeling spiritual tools would be capable of responding to the cry of his soul, establishing a mysterious spiritual connection with him, breaking away from his control, and moving about willfully.

It was only when the spirit tool had developed its own independent will and intelligence that it would be able to communicate with one's spirit, and thus be called a Spirit Channeling spiritual tool.

According to what his master Wu Ji had told him, let alone the Realm of Flame Heaven, even in the whole Land of Falling Stars, Spirit Channeling spiritual tools would still be as rare as phoenix feathers or qilin horns.

Facing such a rare treasure, he would even put his life in danger before letting it go.

Therefore he decided to wait till the point the Flame Dragon Armor gave up, and then immediately take it and get as far away from that place as possible.

A period of time had passed, and he was still staring blankly at the magma beneath the large hole. Suddenly, he saw the magma begin to boil more and more violently.

This time, the Flame Dragon Armor showed no sign of movement. However, the ancient magical symbols within the numerous crystal-like ribbons unexpectedly became dazzling and brilliant.

Eyes wide and filled with amazement, Nie Tian looked down at them. Suddenly, he saw that there seemed to be a vague but huge shadow moving about in the blazing magma.

Naturally, he released his psychic awareness to sense it.

FIZZ!

However, as soon as the strands of his psychic awareness approached the miraculous crystal-like ribbons, they were vaporized, not leaving a trace.

“ROOOOOOAR!”

At that very moment, a heaven-shaking beast roar echoed out from the blurry shadow in the magma.

BOOM!

It caught Nie Tian off guard. He immediately experienced a mind-splitting headache, while wisps of blood flowed out from his nostrils and the corner of his mouth.

Chapter 111: Earth Flame Beast!

The roar of the fierce beast from the earth's core shook Nie Tian to the point that he spat out blood, while his head rumbled continuously.

Terror started to appear in his eyes. Subconsciously, he took a few steps back, moving slightly further away from the huge hole. He stood there flabbergasted.

With merely one roar, it managed to cause slight damage to his physical body, even though he considered himself to be stronger than average. This had put a bit of fear in him.

He couldn't imagine just how strong the blurry fierce beast was, which moved about under the magma.

He also noticed that when the fierce beast vaguely showed itself moments ago, the ancient magical symbols that flowed within the crystal-like ribbons, suddenly became dazzling and bright.

He remembered clearly that during the three times when the Flame Dragon Armor had attempted to dive into the magma, only a small part of the magical symbols within the ribbons had lit up.

He suddenly came to a realization that the real purpose of the ribbons was to stop the fierce beast from escaping and rushing out from the earth core.

ROOOOAR!

Once again, a heaven-shaking, earth-shattering roar burst out from the boiling magma within the earth's core. This time, Nie Tian, who had prepared in advance, circulated his spiritual energy and tightly shielded his internal organs and eardrums. Only in that way did he manage to resist the damage.

He saw that within the magma in the huge hole, a giant blurry figure with three long tails seemed to have swam by.

“It lives in the earth's core magma, and it has three tails!”

He tried his best to calm himself and recall the formidable spiritual beasts that his master had imparted to him. Suddenly, he had an epiphany.

“Earth Flame Beast! It's an Earth Flame Beast!”

Wu Ji had once told him that there was a unique kind of spiritual beast that resided in the middle of the magma of the earth's core, and was therefore known as the Earth Flame Beast.

They were fire-attributed spiritual beasts that were by nature extremely vicious and violent. It was said that they possessed the bloodline of Flame Qilins.

Their growth, cultivation, and advancements all greatly relied on the magma in the earth's core.

Once they had found a suitable magma lake in the earth's core, they would make it its habitat and spontaneously gather flame power from the surrounding areas, and merge it into the lake.

Whatever place Earth Flame Beasts inhabited, even if it were once damp and rainy, with their arrival, the place would slowly become hot and dry, with the formation of volcanoes that frequently erupted.

As long as they lived there, the flame energy nearby would be absorbed by them and slowly flow into the magma lake in the earth's core where they resided.

Over a long period of time, the mountains within their habitat would turn into volcanoes one after another, and as they cultivated and condensed more flame power, the volcanoes would become more active and erupt more frequently.

“Can it be that... this Earth Flame Beast has made the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range what it is now?”

Looking at the numerous crystal-like ribbons, Nie Tian's eyes flickered. Suddenly, he came to a realization that the most powerful experts of the Spiritual Treasure sect must have been aware of the existence of the Earth Flame Beast for a long time.

Otherwise, the crystal-like ribbons wouldn't have extended so far that they covered the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

He assumed that a founding expert of the Spiritual Treasure sect must have only built their sect in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range after discovering the Earth Flame Beast underneath it.

As long as the Earth Flame Beast was there, the magma lake deep within the earth's core would forever gather flame energy, causing the three volcanoes to never go extinct.

Qi warriors of the Spiritual school, who cultivated with the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, and equipment forgers of the Treasure school, who refined spiritual tools, were mostly reliant on the blazing flame energy.

The existence of the Earth Flame Beast had caused the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth shrouding the Spiritual Treasure sect to carry rich flame power.

The fierce flame from the earth's core could be drawn out for many uses. Some of it would be used to form the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, while some would flow into the caves to allow the equipment forgers of the Treasure school to refine spiritual tools.

However, the flame power at earth's core wasn't infinite. Normally, the flame power on this land would have been completely used up after hundreds of years of consumption by the numerous Spiritual Treasure sect disciples.

But the Earth Flame Beast could change that!

It could unceasingly draw flame power from the vicinity of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range and channel it into the magma lake.

Its existence would ensure that the Spiritual Treasure sect thrived among the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, with an infinite supply of flame energy to be used for their cultivation and equipment forging.

ROOOOAR!

While Nie Tian was pondering such matters, the Earth Flame Beast within the magma once again let out mad roars. It seemed to be attempting to break away from the restriction of the crystal-like ribbons and burst forth from the magma lake in the earth's core.

“It must have also noticed the damage to the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation and want to seize the opportunity to get out. That's probably the reason why it's so violent and restless.”

Shortly after everything had started, the dome of the grand spell formation had been torn open. Later on, seeing the losing momentum couldn't be reversed, Fang Hui deactivated the defense to give the mass disciples a chance to live.

Fang Hui's decision had compromised the formation, which gave the Earth Flame Beast within the magma lake a sign of hope.

WHOOSH!

At that moment, the Flame Dragon Armor, which had remained silent for a while, once again flew out.

“Will you stop messing around?” With a bitter smile, Nie Tian said, “Even that beast can’t burst out of there, so please stop wasting your energy.”

From Nie Tian’s point of view, all the ancient magical symbols within the glittering ribbons had now turned dazzling and bright because of the frantic behaviors of the beast.

Compared to before, the restrictive force of the net of crystal-like ribbons must have also multiplied by who knew how many times.

If the Flame Dragon Armor were to give it a try now, not only would it not stand a chance, it could also use up its own flame power. It might as well wait quietly for the Earth Flame Beast to rush out of its bindings.

It seemed as if the Flame Dragon Armor had heard his call, and this time, it actually did not make another rash attempt, but rather floated motionlessly half a meter above the crystal-like ribbons.

At that moment, he faintly felt that an odd aura started to ripple outwards from within the Blood Core on the Flame Dragon Armor, quietly flowing downwards like a mist.

He realized that the Flame Dragon Armor was trying to determine a path with the help of its aura.

Even though Nie Tian could feel the aura, he still didn't understand its true significance.

However, the Earth Flame Beast, that had previously swam away with its three tails, appeared to have noticed the strange aura that came from the Flame Dragon Armor.

It immediately stopped its frantic roaring and started to circle back towards the source of the aura.

Nie Tian looked over with rapt attention, and found that the Earth Flame Beast seemed to be concerned with the formidable power of the crystal-like ribbons sealing the magma lake, and didn't dare to rise to the surface.

Therefore, Nie Tian could only see an enormous, vague shadow, but couldn't get a clear look of its appearance.

He only saw the Earth Flame Beast swimming back deeply under the magma lake; then it stopped directly below the Flame Dragon Armor as if it was sensing the the aura of the Blood Core.

Cut off by the thin but giant crystal net, there was no way that Nie Tian's psychic awareness could perceive what it was doing under there. But, he was aware that the Earth Flame Beast and the

Flame Dragon Armor were communicating in a way that he could not understand.

Nie Tian stared blankly at them.

It seemed that the Blood Core in the Flame Dragon Armor and the Earth Flame Beast had come to some kind of agreement after communicating for a while.

In the next moment, Nie Tian saw a perilous, raging wave rising in the magma lake.

Apparently, some kind of strange magnetic field was forming inside the lake, changing the flow of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the surroundings.

The Earth Flame Beast was channeling flame energy into the magma lake, causing the magma in the earth's core to become even more vigorous.

By that point, the Earth Flame Beast appeared to have activated the talent that had been hidden in its bloodline.

Very quickly, Nie Tian noticed that pure and rich spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, which contained copious flame power, started to flow down along the stone tunnel to where he was.

As soon as the threads of flame power reached the end of the tunnel, they swarmed into the Blood Core within the Flame

Dragon Armor.

Although he couldn't get a clear look, he was sure that the blood drop within the Blood Core must be gradually strengthening.

It had only been a short while, but a large amount of the pure spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth had already filled the space where Nie Tian was standing, and the rough stone walls around him started to gradually heat up.

The flame aura stored within the spiritual Qi was being absorbed by the Blood Core. However, there was an even larger amount of heaven and earth energy were floating in the stone tunnel, congealing into clusters of milky-white clouds.

Nie Tian was seized by the amazing scene. Then, he felt that every breath that he took made him increasingly comfortable and relaxed.

Without thinking, he sat down on the ground and started to practice the Qi Refining Incantation. Immediately, he felt his spiritual sea start to ripple and soon become violent and chaotic.

His expression flickered. "The excessively rich spiritual energy seems to be pushing me to break through the bottleneck and enter the Lesser Heaven stage!"

The extremely thick spiritual energy, the magnetic field formed by the Earth Flame Beast, and the changes occurring to the Flame

Dragon Armor, coupled with Nie Tian's special mental state, all seemed to be working together and causing Nie Tian's spiritual sea to reform.

Just like his mental state, his spiritual sea could no longer stay calm, as if it was being warped by a strange magnetic field.

He immediately understood that the bottleneck that had been holding him back was being overcome with the help of a number of extremely unusual factors. Now, it had reached a point where he simply had to break through.

All these years of unyielding cultivation in the Qi Refining stage, accompanied by his accumulation of spiritual energy, were like a volcano that had been continuously storing flame power.

By the time it had reached a certain extent and met a perfect opportunity, the volcano would need to erupt.

If it couldn't erupt from the top, it would explode underground, giving vent to the violent power surging inside of it.

Similarly, if he didn't break through at that moment, then it was possible that his spiritual sea would explode!

After realizing that, even though Nie Tian knew that it was not an ideal time to break through, he had no other choice.

He forced himself to calm down, ignoring the increasingly hot

stone tunnel, the changes occurring to the Flame Dragon Armor, as well as the existence of the Earth Flame Beast, going all out to break through his bottleneck.

Meanwhile...

Near the mouth of the stone cave, An Shiyi and the others were waiting anxiously. Suddenly, a look of amazement flashed across her eyes.

“Did you feel anything?” asked An Shiyi.

One after another, they all stopped their cultivation and nodded their heads. Pan Tao said, “The spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth of the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range seems to be converging towards us.”

“And the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth contains rich flame power.” An Shiyi practiced fire-attributed spiritual incantations, so she had a more acute perception of flame energy. “We all know that the reason why our sect chose the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range as our base was mostly because of the rich spiritual energy here and the intense flame aura in the spiritual energy.

“But it’s absolutely not normal for the flow of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth to undergo such a big change.

“Now I can sense that the flame aura within the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range is mixed in the spiritual Qi, and madly

rushing towards us!”

While speaking, they had also felt that the stones that they had been sitting on were slowly warming up.

If they were to walk out of the stone cave at that moment, they would have found that the short mountain that they were at was gradually turning red, as if someone was painting it.

After hearing An Shiyi’s words, Pan Tao focused his attention to feel the changes. A moment later, he asked with a puzzled face, “Where the hell is Nie Tian?”

“Could it be Nie Tian who triggered the changes to this place?” An Ying said in a low voice.

“It’s impossible!!” Pan Tao shook his head. “What stage is he in? He’s far from reaching the point where he can interact with the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth like this. If he already could trigger such a huge change to the flow of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth while only being in the Qi Refining stage, wouldn’t the life-long cultivation of elder Fang Hui and his master Wu Ji have become a joke? Wouldn’t they have trained so long for nothing?”

Worried about Nie Tian’s safety, An Shiyi rose to her feet. “You guys stay here, I’ll head down there and take a quick look!”

She practiced fire-attributed spiritual incantations, and had the highest cultivation base among everyone present. If they were to

send out one person to get a clear grasp of the situation, she would be the best choice.

“Be careful, sis!” An Ying felt a bit worried. “[My right eye usually twitches in response to omens](#). I have the feeling something big is about to happen.”

“I also have the feeling that something isn’t right,” said Jiang Lingzhu. “My Qi and blood aren’t flowing smoothly, and my chest feels as if it’s being pressured by a big stone.”

“Keep your guard up. I’ll go take a look at what Nie Tian is doing, and urge him to leave!” With these words, An Shiyi went down the deep, gloomy stone tunnel, in an attempt to find Nie Tian.

The roots of some Chinese superstitions lie in folk stories. The following is a folk story related to eye twitching:

There was once a scholar who was heading to the Imperial City for an imperial examination. Upon arrival to the city, he found an inn where he could spend the night. He studied the whole night in his room, and was feeling confident about the exam. Before long, it was already dawn. The scholar quickly left the inn to join the other scholars at the exam site.

However, to his surprise, he realised that the questions were of a different topic than what he studied the night before. He became really worried. Due to the lack of sleep the night before, his right eye started to twitch. Even though he tried his best to finish his exam, he failed.

So he returned home disappointed. He wanted to have a few drinks, but he had no money. He decided to go to his father to borrow some money. Surprisingly, his father willingly gave him money for alcohol. At that moment, his left eye twitched.

After a year, he took the exam again. This time, he successfully passed the exam. He was given a government position, and he started to spread the story of his experience to the public.

Hence the saying, “The twitching of the left eye signals wealth; the twitching of the right eye signals hazards.”

Chapter 112: Advancing to the Lesser Heaven Stage!

At the end of the stone tunnel, Nie Tian and the Flame Dragon Armor were working on their respective tasks. One absorbed the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, while the other gathered flame energy.

Nie Tian's spiritual sea was now frantic and disordered. The spiritual energy within it was like a chaotic mist, totally out of control as it flowed about.

He tried his utmost to gain control of the spiritual energy mist and restore calmness to his spiritual sea.

But then he realized that the more effort he expended, the more agitated and violent his spiritual sea became, moving like a ferocious, wild beast.

“Qi Refining stage, Lesser Heaven stage...”.

He forced himself to stop paying attention to his unruly spiritual sea, and instead ponder over the explanations of his master Wu Ji had given him about the Qi Refining stage and Lesser Heaven stage.

According to Wu Ji, once a Qi warrior had advanced from the Qi Refining stage to the Lesser Heaven stage, there would be tremendous changes to their spiritual sea.

However, Wu Ji didn't say clearly what the changes would be, but instead told him that once he had broken through, he would naturally understand.

Wu Ji also told him that starting from the Lesser Heaven stage, each and every advancement between realms could possibly cause different, miraculous, and unexpected changes to the body, spiritual sea, and even the soul.

He would have to rely on himself to comprehend the profundity of the changes. Only without restrictions drawn from the descriptions of others would he be able to have a true and clear understanding of the differences between one stage and another.

“Changes...” He whispered to himself. He tried his best to retain a calm mind and focus all his attention on the movements of the soul.

When he stopped thinking about the bottleneck and only focused on the changes that had been taking place in his spiritual sea, he suddenly realized that the seemingly unruly movements of the misty spiritual energy were actually not completely chaotic.

He sensed that the spiritual energy that was flowing about randomly actually wished to come together, and take a certain form.

He no longer attempted to calm the rebellious spiritual energy. Instead, he gathered his psychic awareness and tried to use it to

accelerate the movement of the spiritual energy.

By letting go and even boosting the seemingly casual movements, he fueled the action within his spiritual sea, making it even more raging and turbulent.

The misty spiritual energy kept stirring and converging violently within his spiritual sea.

Not long after, the huge amount of spiritual energy gradually gathered together and, to his surprise, formed an unstable vortex of spiritual energy within his spiritual sea.

As soon as the vortex had taken its initial shape, the scattered, roaming spiritual energy seemed to have found a vent.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Thread after thread of misty spiritual energy rushed forth and merged into the vortex of spiritual energy from every direction.

After the misty spiritual energy finished gathering, the spiritual vortex that had just formed, and was still unstable, began to revolve even faster and more furiously.

A gravitational force was suddenly born from the center of the vortex.

In that moment, Nie Tian suddenly felt that the speed at which his spiritual sea was absorbing the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth had suddenly increased by many times!

Before, he needed to continuously channel energy with the Qi Refining Incantation, so as to gradually pull the spiritual energy from the outside into his spiritual sea.

However, now that the vortex of spiritual power was formed within his spiritual sea, everything had changed.

The revolution of the spiritual vortex gave rise to a gravitational force, which, coupled with the Qi Refining Incantation, would allow Nie Tian to absorb the surrounding spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth at a speed several times faster than before.

He experimented by stopping his use of the Qi Refining Incantation. Yet, he found to his surprise that the vortex of spiritual power within his spiritual sea was still revolving.

The downside was that, without his guidance and the effect of the Qi Refining Incantation, the speed of revolution slowed down by several-fold.

But even so, the vortex of spiritual power in his spiritual sea was still slowly taking in the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth.

This made him realize that in the future, even without practicing Qi Refining Incantation, his spiritual sea would still unceasingly

absorb the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth because of the existence of the vortex.

No matter if he was eating, sleeping, or fighting, as long as his vortex of spiritual power didn't stop revolving, he would be able to gather and store up spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth non-stop.

At that moment, having felt the changes himself, he seemed to come to an enlightenment without assistance from others.

“Lesser Heaven stage! Could this be the biggest difference between the Lesser Heaven stage and Qi Refining stage?”

He was convinced that the formation of the vortex of spiritual power within the spiritual sea must be the fundamental difference between the Qi Refining stage and the Lesser Heaven stage.

It could be said that once the vortex of spiritual power was formed in a Qi warrior's spiritual sea, it would mean that they had stepped into the Lesser Heaven stage from the Qi Refining stage.

“Lesser Heaven! This must be the Lesser Heaven stage!”

After having reached the sudden enlightenment, he used the Qi Refining Incantation to once again guide the energy with his spiritual sea to speed up the revolution of the vortex of spiritual power.

In a flash, he felt that the revolution of the vortex had abruptly

accelerated by quite a few times, thereupon increasing the gravitational force coming from the eye of the vortex by a few times.

Also because of this, the rate of him absorbing the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth had suddenly accelerated.

“This is awesome!”

Submerged in ecstasy, he could no longer feel any discomfort. He realized that because of the formation of the vortex of spiritual power, his originally quiet spiritual sea instantly became full of life force.

With the formation of the vortex of spiritual power, his spiritual sea appeared to have been vested with a vigorous life, and the rate at which he absorbed the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth had increased by a number of folds.

In the future, even when he wasn't practicing cultivation, his spiritual sea would still automatically gather spiritual energy from the surroundings.

“Can this be the biggest difference between the Lesser Heaven stage and Qi Refining stage?”

“This... this is the breakthrough I've been waiting for?”

After coming to an understanding about what was happening, he

still felt a bit muddled. After channeling the rich spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth that had filled the end of the stone tunnel into his spiritual sea for some time, he suddenly experienced a strange difficulty in breathing.

After that, he also felt that the stone beneath where he sat had turned red from heat.

Subconsciously, he snapped open his eyes.

He then realized that the stone wall around him at the end of the stone tunnel seemed to have become red, fiery, and crystal-like, and was emanating terrifying flame power.

He, who had been staying deeply underground, was completely unaware of the changes that had occurred outside of the tunnel. Now, he was already soaked in sweat, and gradually found the high temperature at that place unbearable.

He cast a look towards the Flame Dragon Armor, and saw that the Flame Dragon Armor was still floating in the air above the crystal-like, glittering ribbon, absorbing strands after strands of flame power.

He also discovered that the enormous shadow of the Earth Flame Beast within the magma lake below was still madly attracting the flame energy towards itself, using some kind of innate bloodline talent that was not known to him.

“It seems that the Flame Dragon Armor and the Earth Flame Beast have reached a mutual understanding. They are planning to join hands and attack from both sides to break the restriction of the net of crystal-like ribbons. Once the restrictive seal breaks, the boiling magma within the magma lake will surely spout out madly and violently into the outside world via the stone tunnel.

“I’m the closest to the magma lake, so if that happens I will be the first one to be burnt to death!

“Also, An Shiyi and everyone who chose to wait for me at the mouth of the cave will also be swallowed by the raging lava. None of us will have a chance to escape!”

With these thoughts, his expression shifted for a while before he finally came to a decision.

He sent a thread of psychic awareness towards the Flame Dragon Armor, expressing his thoughts. “Please... come back to my side after you have gotten everything that you want.”

After that, he finally rose to his feet and reluctantly dashed back up, following the stone tunnel.

If he had seen some hope of getting out safely before things got out of control, and had been convinced that he would be able to provide help to the Flame Dragon Armor by staying, he would have chosen to stay.

But now, from every sign that had been presented to him, he had already figured out what was going to happen if he refused to leave.

Therefore, he decided not to wait there pointlessly.

FIZZ!

Immediately after he left, the Flame Dragon Armor, which was floating in the air motionlessly, seemed to have captured his will and suddenly gave off a blazing flame aura.

Unfortunately, he didn't see the change, as he only wanted to take An Shiyi and the others out of the cave and far away from the short mountain as soon as possible.

On his way back, he discovered that some parts of the stone tunnel that had previously been drilled open by the Flame Dragon Armor were now once again blocked up. Luckily, the blockage was only formed by fragmented rocks and dirt. He had to use quite some effort, but somehow managed to slowly proceed within the stone tunnel towards the surface.

After an unknown period of time, he suddenly heard An Shiyi's anxious calls.

“Nie Tian, Nie Tian!”

A bit of warmth filled his heart. After determining the direction

of An Shiyi's voice, he immediately sped madly towards her.

BOOM!

After quite a while, he broke through a wall of broken stones and suddenly saw An Shiyi standing in front of him.

An Shiyi was startled at first, but after realizing it was Nie Tian, she let out a sigh of relief and said, "Nie Tian! Where have you been? I came to look for you, but when I reached here I realized it was a dead end. I..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Nie Tian grabbed her by her milky arm, and took her along as he ran outwards. He bellowed, "Say no more. We need to leave this place as soon as possible!"

Nie Tian had recognized that the spot where An Shiyi was standing as exactly the place where the Flame Dragon Armor had started to drill towards the earth core.

The drilling motion of the Flame Dragon Armor had caused the tunnel behind it to clog. Therefore, An Shiyi had hurried to that place only to find that it was a dead end. Since she couldn't find any trace of him, she could only shout loudly, hoping that Nie Tian could hear her.

"What happened?" An Shiyi didn't resist. She let him drag her along as they dashed towards the surface.

Her cultivation base was more profound than Nie Tian's, therefore she was able to speak while they were running at a high speed.

However, all of Nie Tian's effort had gone to dashing to the surface as soon as possible. Running at full speed, he couldn't spare a breath to explain anything.

After realizing that Nie Tian couldn't answer her questions at the moment, she stopped asking, and focused on rushing forward with him. From time to time, she turned her head to look at his firm and resolute profile, her eyes glittering.

"You have truly grown..." An Shiyi muttered softly.

After quite some time, several beams of light could be seen, illuminating the dim stone path ahead of them.

Pan Tao's anxious voice suddenly rang out. "You guys are finally back."

Nie Tian slightly loosened up his mind. Since he had hurried back to the mouth of the cave before any sudden change occurred in the earth's core, at least everyone wouldn't be swallowed by raging lava without the time to respond.

"Let's get out of here!" Nie Tian said.

"You punk!" Pan Tao cursed as he walked out of the stone cave.

“You think that we want to stay in this crappy place? Wasn’t it all because of you?!”

Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo’s tones weren’t pleasant either. They all scolded him and called him a reckless troublemaker.

Smiling the whole time, Nie Tian walked out of the cave and let them vent their anger and discontent.

By that point, he had noticed that both Zheng Bin and Han Xin were no longer among the crowd.

All these who had stayed behind, no matter how badly they cursed at him, had chosen not to abandon him. Even though they were fully aware of his unruly and reckless actions, they still chose to wait for him till he returned.

These were the people that he truly valued and felt emotionally connected with.

Chapter 113: One Bad Thing After Another!

It wasn't until Nie Tian and his group were about a thousand meters away from the short mountain, that they finally came to a stop.

Nie Tian's expression was grim as he turned around and looked at the mountain that was still madly gathering and absorbing the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth.

The others had found time to scold him again. They blamed him for acting of his own accord and rushing towards the belly of the mountain at such a crucial moment, which had almost caused everyone to suffer a calamity.

An Shiyi didn't say anything, but rather looked Nie Tian up and down with full concentration. After quite a while, she asked with a soft voice, "Nie Tian... have you entered the Lesser Heaven stage?"

Upon hearing these words, everyone else stopped bickering and began to examine Nie Tian curiously.

They found that there were slight spiritual power fluctuations wreathing Nie Tian, despite the fact that he had his attention fixed on the short mountain and wasn't doing anything at all.

Most of them had only recently broken through from the Qi Refining stage to the Lesser Heaven stage after the Green Illusion dimension trial. Therefore, they all knew the greatest difference between the Qi Refining stage and the Lesser Heaven stage.

When someone was in the Lesser Heaven stage, even if they did nothing, as long as there was spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth nearby, the vortex of spiritual power in their spiritual sea would still be able to slowly take in the spiritual power and trigger subtle spiritual power fluctuations.

“He really is in the Lesser Heaven stage!” Shocked and curious, Pan Tao asked, “You punk... You just spent four hours in the mountain belly and made the breakthrough already?”

Everyone else’s face also flickered.

They were all survivors of the cruel trial within the Green Illusion dimension, and after returning to their respective sect, they had all spent a long time to gather their thoughts and seek the proper enlightenment; only then did they finally break through.

The speed at which they advanced wasn’t slow, but it definitely wasn’t quick and smooth either.

Yet, four hours ago, Nie Tian had clearly been at the Qi Refining stage and weaker than them by one stage. How could they have expected that within such a short time, Nie Tian would have managed to break through?

“Hahaha, I got lucky,” Nie Tian responded without thinking, confirming An Shiyi’s guess. After that his face turned serious and said, “Pan Tao, Sister An, did you know that the volcano which you thought was extinct, actually has a whole other world

underneath it if you go deep enough?”

Puzzled, Pan Tao asked, “What do you mean?”

“There’s actually fierce, burning magma flowing under there!” Nie Tian exclaimed. “And there is a layer of strange, crystal-like ribbons covering the magma. If my speculations are correct, that net of glittering ribbons is a part of the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation.

“The coverage of the grand spell formation isn’t only limited to the three volcanoes surrounding the Spiritual Treasure sect. From what I can tell, the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range is within its coverage!”

Pan Tao was taken aback. “This... this is impossible!?”

Both An Shiyi and An Ying were also surprised. They clearly weren’t aware of that fact.

Jiang Lingzhu also had an astonished look on her face as she asked, “Are you sure, Nie Tian? The purpose of the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation is to protect the Spiritual Treasure sect, so how can it possibly cover such a wide range? Besides, there aren’t any active volcanoes in other parts of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, so what’s the point of it covering such a huge area?”

With a bitter smile, Nie Tian said, “It’s there to seal an unusual

beast.”

“Ahhh?!” An Shiyi called out softly with her mouth covered.

“What exactly did you see, Nie Tian?” asked Pan Tao, his voice serious.

“An Earth Flame Beast!”

Nie Tian took a deep breath and explained about the Earth Flame Beast within the magma lake and the restrictive power of the net of crystal-like ribbons, only leaving out the unusual behaviors of the Flame Dragon Armor.

He also informed them that the Earth Flame Beast would very likely escape soon, since the grand spell formation had been partly damaged and deactivated.

Jiang Lingzhu’s expression flickered after hearing everything. “Dear lord! I can’t believe that there’s an Earth Flame Beast within the earth’s core under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range! According to the legends, Earth Flame Beasts possess the bloodline of Flame Qilins, so they are capable of gathering flame aura continuously with their bloodline power! No wonder the Spiritual Treasure sect built their base in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. It must have been because of the Earth Flame Beast!”

Unusual lights flashed within An Shiyi’s dark pupils. After pondering for a while, she seemed convinced.

She trusted Nie Tian's judgment, and knew that he would never lie about that. If there really was a Earth Flame Beast imprisoned deep within the earth's core, it must have been a spell cast by some powerful experts from the older generation of the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“The Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation!”

It suddenly occurred to her that the builder of the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation was none other than the master of Hou Zhengchen, the current sectmaster.

Moreover, the spiritual Treasure sect seemed to have moved from other areas of the Realm of Flame Heaven to the the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range during Hou Zhengchen's master's generation.

She immediately understood the logic behind it.

A frightened look stretched across Pan Tao's face. “That Earth Flame Beast is about to escape from the magma lake in the earth's core?”

Nie Tian nodded and said, “It won't take it very long.”

Upon hearing these words, everyone panicked, overwhelmed by the feeling that a great catastrophe was upon them.

An Shiyi's face also turned pale as she said, "Once the Earth Flame Beast breaks free and rushes out from the earth's core, the raging magma that has formed because of it will immediately erupt! If the earth's core deep under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range is truly filled with magma, then every single one of the volcanoes in Flame Mountain will simultaneously erupt as soon as the Earth Flame Beast comes out, extinct or active!

"By that time, the mountain gaps, the creeks, the stone paths, and the forest... the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range will probably be flooded with blazing lava!

"The magma condensed by the Earth Flame Beast will be at a terrifyingly high temperature. It will melt our bodies and turn us into a bloody mess!

Pan Tao's heart was burning with anxiety. "Let's go! Now! Get out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range as soon as possible!"

From the look on his face, he was worried that the nearby little hill would soon spout boiling magma and engulf them in fiery death.

Nie Tian glanced at the hill and realized that it had already become as red as a heated stone.

He also saw that dark-red, fiery mist seemed to be coming out from each and every cave that dotted its slopes.

All of a sudden, he felt a vague but abrupt surge of aura, which apparently was emanated by the Flame Dragon Armor, even though it was still deep under the short mountain.

He suddenly came to realize that after a period of accumulation, the Flame Dragon Armor must have gathered up enough flame energy, and it was about to cooperate with the Earth Flame Beast to attack the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation from inside the mountain.

“You are right, we need to leave now!” Nie Tian was also worried about their safety.

Then the group picked a new direction. They no longer rushed in the direction of the Cloudsoaring sect, Mystic Mist sect and Grayvale sect. Instead, under Pan Tao’s guidance, they picked the shortest route out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, and sped away.

Nie Tian’s discoveries at the earth’s core had shocked all of them and made them realize that as soon as the Earth Flame Beast escaped, the whole Scarlet Flame Mountain Range would about to be submerged by terrifying waves of burning lava.

Perhaps people with high cultivation bases would be able to survive before the enormous waves of lava spread.

However, as for them, if they failed to leave soon, then by the time the fierce lava had spread to every corner of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, they would inevitably be burned alive!

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Every one of them madly drew from their spiritual power in order to run faster. They all stopped covering up their panting and auras, as they no longer feared that pursuers from the Blood sect and Ghost sect might track them.

By that point, they had all realized that the catastrophic results of the Earth Flame Beast escaping were much worse than the threat from the Blood sect and Ghost sect.

However, they were forced to stop after running for a short while.

In front of them, two people, a male and a female in red, were standing by a limpid river. The woman was none other than the witch, Yu Tong, who they had met in the Green Illusion dimension.

“Finally, here you are!” Feng Luo, who was standing beside Yu Tong, grinned widely and said, “We couldn’t find your tracks earlier and figured you must be hiding somewhere. But hey, who would have guessed that you would let down your guard and expose yourselves.”

After leaving the valley, the two of them had been tracking the group via footprints and scanning with their psychic awareness.

They had gone to great lengths to determine that Nie Tian and the rest of his party were in that area. However, when they got there, they were unable to find any trace of them.

Since it was a quite large area, Feng Luo could only conduct a carpet search with his psychic awareness.

It actually was an ineffective and troublesome method.

Just as he was having a headache searching for them, Nie Tian and his group stopped sealing their aura and showed themselves on Feng Luo's radar.

The moment she caught sight of Nie Tian, Yu Tong let out an explosive shout, as if his appearance had lit up the barrel of gunpowder in her heart.

“Nie Tian!”

Suddenly, Yu Tong's eyes were wreathed by threads after threads of blood aura, which slithered about in her eyes like dragons and snakes, giving her a devilish and frightening look.

“He's Feng Luo from the Blood sect!”

An Shiyi's expression flickered when she saw the man beside Yu Tong. She hastily warned everyone, “Be careful everyone! That Feng Luo is the junior martial brother of Yu Tong's master, Shen Xiu. He's a Greater Heaven stage expert!”

Nie Tian's eyes widened. "Greater Heaven stage!"

An Shiyi, who was the strongest on their side, was merely at the late Heaven stage.

Even though Feng Luo had only recently advanced to Greater Heaven stage, everyone was well aware of how big of a difference there was between the two stages.

If there weren't any mishaps, the Greater Heaven stage Feng Luo would be able to completely overtake An Shiyi while still having the power to fight others.

Yu Tong, on the other hand, had stepped into Lesser Heaven stage back when she was still in the Green Illusion dimension. The rumors had it that even though she had been seriously injured when she returned from the Green Illusion Realm, after she had recovered, she had become even stronger than before.

Technically speaking, Feng Luo and Yu Tong combined were clearly overwhelmingly stronger than Nie Tian's group.

Perhaps it was also because of this that Feng Luo and Yu Tong had such strong self-confidence. Just with the two of them, they dared to pursue them for so long and confront them face to face, instead of sneaking up on them.

"So he is the disciple of Eccentric Wu?" Feng Luo followed Yu

Tong's gaze and swept Nie Tian from head to toe. With a nod, he said, "Hmm... he has also advanced to the Lesser Heaven stage. It's good that you're both at the early Lesser Heaven stage. In this way, you two can be considered equally strong. After you have killed him, it won't be like you've fought a one-sided battle."

"Little Tong!" Feng Luo's expression became serious. "Since your heart is in disturbance because of him, kill him now and eliminate the devil from your heart!"

With these words, he stretched out his hands and formed a seal.

As soon as the seal was complete, Nie Tian and his group saw a thick blood mist emerging from the ground under their feet.

The hard stone ground underneath immediately seemed as if it was painted by blood, with blood constantly oozing out of the clefts.

PUFF!

Pan Tao felt a strong shock to his body, as if he had taken a heavy blow, and even coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Jiang Lingzhu, Ye Gumo, as well as An Ying also staggered slightly, and their faces turned as red as blood. They all seemed to have been bombarded by some kind of invisible force.

Their originally upright figures suddenly shook violently, as if

they couldn't even get a firm foothold.

The clean river water behind Feng Luo and Yu Tong seemed as if it were flooded with bloody water, since it had now become red and reeked of a bloody smell.

Nie Tian and An Shiyi were the only ones who had been completely unaffected.

Nie Tian's face turned grim. He looked down and found that there wasn't any blood flowing out of the ground under his feet. It was the same with An Shiyi.

He instantly realized that Feng Luo's magic only targeted Pan Tao and the others, and purposely spared An Shiyi and him.

With a casual wave of his hand, Feng Luo said, "Go ahead, Little Tong. I'll deal with the An clan girl. Nie Tian is yours. I didn't touch him at all, so you two can fight fair and square!"

"Thank you Uncle Feng," Yu Tong replied softly.

Chapter 114: A Fight That Has to Be Fought

“Nie Tian! Sister! Don’t worry about us, just leave!”

An Ying realized what was happening and immediately started screaming loudly. She wanted Nie Tian and An Shiyi to leave as soon as possible.

She was perfectly aware that the strength of the Greater Heaven stage Feng Luo far exceeded her sister’s.

Since she had never witnessed a battle between Nie Tian and Yu Tong, she didn’t trust that Nie Tian would win. Even if by some chance Nie Tian managed to defeat Yu Tong, there was no way he would have the strength to contend with Feng Luo.

Instead of having everyone killed, they might as well get at least one or two people out alive.

“Shut up!” Feng Luo gave a cold harrumph.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

In the next moment, the blood that had previously emerged from the ground rapidly climbed up their legs and covered their bodies.

The blood was like a bunch of madly growing weeds. Only moments passed before they were all wrapped in a layer of sticky

blood, making them look like big, bloody cocoons.

An Ying and several others were covered in so much blood that only their heads were left out in the open. The stinky, pungent smell of the blood took advantage of the opportunity and rushed into their noses.

Soon, An Ying was reduced to only being able to make muffled noises, and was no longer able to speak.

After being completely constrained by the blood, they could only observe with wide eyes, without being able to move or converse at all.

With a merciless and cold-blooded smile, Feng Luo asked, “Nie Tian, is it? Don’t even dream of escaping. If you dare to leave my sight, I kill them instantly. So be a good boy, and go fight Little Tong. Won’t it be fun to have your friends watch how you die?

WHOOSH!

At that moment, An Shiyi, who had not spoken a word since confirming Feng Luo’s cultivation base, suddenly morphed into a blazing fireball and smashed towards him.

At the same time, a flock of raging flames flooded towards Feng Luo like rolling flaming lanterns.

BANG! BANG!

The numerous fireballs burst into smaller fireballs, but turned into an even larger swarm of flames, converging onto Feng Luo from every direction.

However, Feng Luo, despite being besieged by flames, showed a sinister smile. He shook his head, and said, “Miss An, it seems that your cultivation base is still a bit weak. I’m afraid this kind of attack can’t do any damage to me.”

With these words, Feng Luo’s eyes gradually filled with veins of blood. He suddenly shook his robust body, causing a bloody aura to emerge from his body; like a shield of blood-colored light, it isolated him from the surging flames.

Shielded the raging flames, Feng Luo walked out from the spot where the fireballs had burst, holding an unusual-looking magical ball in his giant right hand.

Inside the transparent magical ball hovered and flashed thick clusters of bloody mist that resembled numerous bloody figures.

“Blood Solidifying Technique!”

Following Feng Luo’s gentle shout, blinding bloody light suddenly shot out of the magical ball, and at the same time, streams of blood flew out from the rivers of blood behind him, as if they were responding to his summoning.

The blood turned into balls before twisting and gradually morphing into five blood imps. The blood imps didn't have faces, yet carried an overwhelming blood aura. All of a sudden, they swooped towards An Shiyi.

An Shiyi's expression flickered as a surge of spiritual power fluctuations rippled out from within the bracelet of holding on her jade arm.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Six burning fire pearls flew right out of her bracelet. Five of them flew towards the blood imps, while the remaining one went straight towards Feng Luo.

“Spiritual Flame Pearls...” With a low-pitched chuckle, Feng Luo's robust frame abruptly sank into the blood under his feet.

In a flash, he seemed to have shed his human form and merged with the blood that had oozed out of the ground, without leaving any trace of him, not even his aura.

As soon as he vanished, huge waves rose on the surface of the blood that covered the ground, like seawater that had been blasted by strong winds.

Waves upon waves of raging blood rolled and swept towards Yu Tong.

“Little Tong!” Feng Luo’s voice sounded extremely distant, as if it came from deep under the ground.

Upon hearing his voice, Yu Tong, who had been glaring at Nie Tian the entire time, seemed to have finally lost control of the anger burning in her heart.

“You deserve to die!”

Yu Tong crossed her milky, slender hands like a butterfly in front of her ample chest, forming various types of mystical seals and incantations.

Countless beams of bloody aura as thick as her arm suddenly shot out from the land under Nie Tian’s feet. They took the shape of beautiful girls’ arms, which gestured seductively while reaching towards him.

Not only were they tender and resilient, but they also carried a mysterious aura that could bewitch one’s soul.

Nie Tian felt somewhat dazzled looking at them, and he began to see illusions in his mind.

In his deluded eyes, the bloody aura appeared to have actually turned into the arms of beautiful women. To him, they didn’t stink of blood, but instead smelled pleasant like perfume.

Numerous illusions constantly appeared in his mind, and he

could no longer differentiate between fantasy and reality. He no longer tell if his opponent was Yu Tong or the numerous illusionary, bloody hands.

“She’s using psychic domination!”

He bit hard on his own tongue in an attempt to use the pain to bring him back to his senses.

He tried his best to guard his soul and ignore all of the bewitching, bloody, hands that were swaying around him. The only thing that he focused on was Yu Tong.

He saw Yu Tong’s jade hands pulling in the air, which seemed like they were dragging and controlling something. At the same time, strong waves of psychic power rippled out from her.

“Psychic attack!”

He let out a violent scream in his mind and solidified his extraordinary psychic power into a giant, invisible pillar, before ruthlessly plunging it towards Yu Tong.

Yu Tong let out a muffled snort. Her devilishly beautiful pupils flashed with a strange light.

“I didn’t expect your psychic power to be so pure and vigorous!” Glaring at Nie Tian, she swung both hands downwards. “Thousand Hands Entanglement!”

One after another, the countless bloody hands suddenly sped up, and before Nie Tian could react, they had already entangled his waist like numerous madly growing vines.

As of this moment, Nie Tian could no longer smell even the slightest bit of perfume, and could only feel himself being partly submerged in a pool of thick blood.

Little by little, he was being dragged by the bloody hands towards Yu Tong.

Yu Tong didn't get ahead of herself just because of that. On the contrary, she observed him with even more caution, as if she was prepared for Nie Tian's counterattack.

She had suffered losses against Nie Tian before, and was aware that Nie Tian possessed a terrifying fist strike. She believed that once Nie Tian used that fist strike, the bloody hands that were currently entangling Nie Tian would no longer be able to bind him down.

She quietly took out a dark-red blood shield and got ready for Nie Tian's counterattack.

The shield was different from the one she had used in the Green Illusion dimension. Unlike the illusionary shield that had been condensed by her blood-attributed spiritual power, this was an actual spiritual tool from the Blood sect.

There were unique, fine-looking, blood-colored patterns carved on the face of the shield, which were there to strengthen the shield.

Actually, Yu Tong had someone customize it, with the sole purpose of defending against the terrifying fist strike of Nie Tian.

She had made many preparations just to kill Nie Tian. The blood shield was to ensure her safety.

Although not able to speak nor move, An Ying, Jiang Lingzhu, and the others who were cocooned by the blood were observing what had been happening.

They watched as Nie Tian was entangled by the bloody hands and slowly pulled closer and closer toward Yu Tong.

Their eyes were filled with worry and anxiety.

On the other hand, Nie Tian twisted his shoulders in an attempt to break free from the bloody hands, but was met with an even stronger counterforce.

Even with his robust frame, he was unable to break free, and could only let himself be dragged closer and closer towards Yu Tong.

He also noticed Yu Tong taking out a delicate blood shield as he drew closer, as if she was facing a formidable enemy.

He quickly came to realize how long and hard Yu Tong had been preparing for this battle.

He secretly took a quick glance at An Shiyi and noticed that the Spiritual Flame Pearls that An Shiyi had released a while ago hadn't killed off the five blood imps.

Feng Luo's drifting, distant voice, on the other hand, could be heard from time to time.

It suddenly became clear to him that the Greater Heaven stage Feng Luo was far from giving his best as he battled An Shiyi.

He was only trying to trap An Shiyi temporarily, while his main focus was actually on the battle between him and Yu Tong.

With his life on a thread, Nie Tian didn't lose his lucidity. On the contrary, he calmly read into the battlefield.

"I can't win by being so passive. The only way to turn the situation around is to capture Yu Tong alive! Only if I can use Yu Tong's life to threaten Feng Luo and force him to release the others, will we have a chance to survive!"

Not only had he reached the conclusion that Yu Tong must hold a special status in the Blood sect, but he had also understood Feng

Luo's intentions. This whole scheme was clearly to aid Yu Tong in annihilating the devil in her heart. Moreover, Yu Tong's master was Feng Luo's elder martial sister, so surely he wouldn't watch Yu Tong die and do nothing.

"Flesh power!" He roared in his mind, attempting to bring forth the mysterious power that had been hidden within him, which always followed excessive beating of his heart. He wished to forcibly turn the situation around with that savage power.

However this time, he noticed that there was already power surging forth from within his flesh and bones before his heart even began to beat violently.

He had spent the past half a year at the back of Cloudsoaring Mountain, feasting on the meat of second grade spirit beasts every day.

The energy within the meat that he had eaten hadn't been channeled into his spiritual sea after it was digested by his stomach. Instead, he had let it naturally disperse into every part of his body.

Most of the time, he wasn't able to sense the power. Yet it erupted at that very moment.

Furthermore, it erupted in a way that was extremely violent and fierce!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Once again, he twisted his shoulders and tried to struggle free with the new force. One after another, the countless bloody hands that had been entangling him burst into drops of blood before splashing outwards and falling into the pool of blood.

“Here it comes!” Yu Tong was in a state of total concentration.

“What?!” Feng Luo’s distant exclaim could be heard. It was exactly as Nie Tian had expected; he had been keeping an eye on the battle between him and Yu Tong.

An Ying, Jiang Lingzhu, and the rest of the party, who had been trapped by blood, also opened their eyes wide, staring at him with rapt attention.

They all noticed that Nie Tian was thrumming with an immense aura of flesh, as astonishing fluctuations of life burst forth from within his body.

BAM! BAM!

Each and every one of the bloody hands instantly burst into drops of blood as Nie Tian wriggled free.

Nie Tian, on the other hand, jumped in front of Yu Tong, his eyes full of savageness. He stared at Yu Tong and declared, “Today, I will defeat you for the fourth time!”

Chapter 115: Captured Alive!

“The fourth time!”

Even though An Ying and the others weren't able to speak, the looks in their eyes flickered. They were clearly shocked by Nie Tian's words.

Did it mean that... Nie Tian had already defeated Yu Tong three times in the Green Illusion dimension?

They simply couldn't believe it.

Meanwhile, to everyone's surprise, Yu Tong didn't refute. She appeared to have acknowledged Nie Tian's words, admitting that she had lost to him three times in the Green Illusion dimension.

Yu Tong's silence made everyone feel increasingly shocked, but at the same time, gave them some confidence in Nie Tian.

Feng Luo's profound, distant voice came through from deep underground. “Three times?”

He only knew that the fact that Yu Tong's failure to complete the Blood sect and Ghost sect's trial task had a great deal to do with a kid named Nie Tian.

However, he absolutely never expected that Yu Tong, who the

Blood sect had placed high hopes on, would have actually suffered defeat three times against this Nie Tian kid.

He finally understood why Nie Tian had become Yu Tong's mental demon, why she would always talk about Nie Tian, and why she almost left the Blood sect without permission to go to Black Cloud City and kill him.

Yu Tong's ego would never allow Nie Tian, whose cultivation base was lower than hers and yet managed to beat her three times in a row, to live.

Only Nie Tian's death would wash away the devil in her heart, and allow her to reclaim her confidence.

Provoked by Nie Tian's words, Yu Tong remained silent for a while and slowly raised her hand.

“There won't be a next time!”

FIZZ!

One after another, numerous crescent moon-shaped sabers suddenly chopped towards Nie Tian, each of which was half an arm long with a scarlet blood aura flowing on its surface.

The curved sabers were like a shoal of bloodthirsty fish. Almost in a flash, they had already interweaved into a bloody net of blades and submerged Nie Tian while giving off terrifying glares.

PUFF! PUFF!

Thread after thread, a network of slender wounds suddenly appeared on Nie Tian's body. In the next moment, blood flowed out of the wounds that had just been cut open by the countless curved sabers.

Nie Tian hurriedly flashed here and there to dodge the attacks. However, the curved sabers followed him like shadows; they continuously tailed after him and attacked him.

Even though Nie Tian tried his best to avoid the sabers, the wounds on his body still increased. However, he managed to shift closer to Yu Tong as he dodged non-stop.

Unfortunately, Yu Tong had long since been prepared for him. As soon as she saw him getting closer, she immediately raised the blood shield in her hand.

The thick blood aura filling the air suddenly rushed into the blood shield. The delicate patterns on the face of the blood shield started to wiggle like earthworms. It seemed as if the blood aura had activated the spell formation on the shield.

Yu Tong's expression was especially fierce. "I had this Blood Edge Shield customized just for you." She glared at him, getting ready to face his terrifying fist strike.

PUFF!

Nie Tian's back was once again cut by one of the crescent-moon-shaped sabers, leaving a long and narrow wound.

He felt scorching, stabbing pain all over.

He had already noticed that even though the crescent-moon-shaped sabers that had continuously pursued him were incomparably sharp, they required Yu Tong to use her spiritual power and psychic power to exquisitely control the whole bunch of them.

Since she needed to spare a large proportion of her mind and strength to manipulate the numerous sabers accurately, the power in each of the individual saber turned out to be quite limited.

It was also because of that when they pierced and cut open his flesh one after another, they didn't actually carry excessive power.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have just been his flesh that was cut open, but rather he would have been dismembered and died instantly.

While he was moving and dodging, he was still pondering over whether he should go all out and use the rage fist strike. "Rage punch..."

Clearly, he was aware that the rage fist strike was the most formidable skill at his disposal.

However, its aftermath was also terrifying.

Once the anger fist was unleashed, regardless of whether he was able to kill Yu Tong with it or not, he would end up completely powerless afterward.

If he managed to kill Yu Tong with it, he was sure that Feng Luo would slaughter Pan Tao, An Ying, and the others without even blinking.

An Shiyi might not even be able to escape from his murderous hands.

Once Yu Tong died, the enraged Feng Luo would undoubtedly kill all of them at all costs, including himself!

And that was still thinking on the bright side.

Right now, Yu Tong was holding a Blood Edge Shield in her hand, which was customized for her needs, and thus might be able to withstand the explosive attack of his rage fist strike.

If it indeed managed to resist his fist strike, he would have exhaust all his flesh power, leaving him victim to Yu Tong's insult and torment, like a sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

“No, I can't...” After a brief pondering, he decided to give up on

the rage fist strike. He shifted his thoughts to looking for other options.

He continuously flashed, dodging around Yu Tong. Like a school of ferocious fish, the sabers continued to increase the number of wounds on his body, while he still couldn't think of a method to instantly defeat Yu Tong, despite racking his brains.

At that time, he very much regretted not learning exquisite spiritual skills when he was at the back of Cloudsoaring Mountain. There weren't any methods he could use at that crucial moment.

His one and only spiritual weapon, the dragon bone, was also not with him at the moment.

As his wounds gradually piled up, and he lost more and more blood, he had a clear feeling that the power contained in his flesh was also dissipating.

If things continued, even if Yu Tong didn't make her move, he would also die from blood loss.

He grew increasingly anxious.

BOOM!

Right at that moment, the loud, frightening sound of an earthquake came from deep below the short mountain they had run away from.

He immediately realized that the Flame Dragon Armor that he had left behind deep within the earth core should have launched its attack, along with the Earth Flame Beast, towards the restrictive net of crystal-like ribbons.

Actually, they were already quite distant from the short mountain by that point.

However, in the instant that the Flame Dragon Armor launched its attack, an unusual image suddenly became visible in his mind.

He seemingly saw an enormous Fire Dragon, with raging flames burning all over its body, releasing the profound power of its bloodline inside the mysterious place that his soul had previously traveled to. It breathed out the most fearsome flames like it wanted to burn the heavens and destroy the earth.

By this point, the originally vague link between him and the Flame Dragon Armor had suddenly become incomparably clear.

The most bizarre thing was that, as he carefully sensed the strange image within his mind, relying on his mysterious psychic link with the Flame Dragon Armor, he suddenly came to an illusion of himself turning into a Fire Dragon.

The spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth that contained rich flame power seemed to have stopped moving towards the short mountain, as if it was no longer attracted by the Earth Flame Beast after the violent earthquake.

The flame power that had stopped flowing had lost its vent and scattered in mid-air in form of scarlet, fiery threads.

Just at that time, the unusual image in his mind grew even clearer, and the connection between him and the Flame Dragon Armor seemed to have become inseparably close. Then, the fiery threads of power that were lingering in mid-air seemed to have found a new target.

Numerous scarlet, fiery threads suddenly dove from the heavens like a pouring rain.

At first glance, it looked as if there were numerous, unnamed, mysterious experts deep within the clouds, throwing down threads after threads of fishing lines, attempting to fish up all the living creatures in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

The strange thing was that those lines shared the same destination: the area where Nie Tian was in.

FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ!

The numerous crescent moon-shaped sabers, that had been pursuing Nie Tian unrelentingly, were instantly pierced by the scarlet, fiery lines.

The bloody aura covering the curved sabers quickly turned dim, as if they had been melted forcibly by the flame power.

CLANK!

A shaft of a curved saber instantly lost its vigor and became completely powerless before abruptly falling onto the ground.

Even more curved swords that had pursued and attacked Nie Tian, one after another, dropped onto the ground and became completely depleted of spiritual energy.

The crisis that had been hovering over Nie Tian was suddenly lifted via such an unfathomable and mysterious way.

“Something is going on underground!”

Feng Luo, who had been lurking in the dark for a long time, slowly rose up from a pool of blood and returned to his original form.

Face grim and eyes filled with questions, he frowned as he looked off into the direction of the short mountain, where the loud noise had come from, trying to figure out what had happened.

On the other hand, Pan Tao and the others, who had been trapped by the blood, had fear written across their faces, as they had all guessed what had just happened.

Even An Shiyi, who was controlling the Spiritual Flame Pearls,

was seized by terror. With a pale face, she couldn't help but uttered, "Oh, damn!"

Feng Luo held his attack. He stared at An Shiyi with his wide, tiger-like eyes and said, "You know what just happened?"

An Shiyi snapped back from her reverie, and said in a calm tone, "Let us go if you want to know. Or... we die here together in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range."

"You're only bluffing!" Feng Luo snorted. He didn't pay any more attention to her, but rather urged Yu Tong, "Little Tong, make it quick. Something doesn't feel right."

"Alright!" Yu Tong took out a Blood Bead that looked like an eyeball and prepared to use the Blood sect's secret magic, in an attempt to murder Nie Tian, who was already covered in wounds.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Suddenly, she found that the numerous, scarlet lines that had fallen from the sky seemed to have assembled together, condensing into the blurry shape of a dragon.

A ten-meter-long dragon, covered in blinding flames, gradually took shape right in front of Nie Tian.

A violent and cruel aura gradually spread out from within the condensing dragon.

Yu Tong glanced at it and immediately realized that the gigantic dragon seemed to be only partly formed. It was still far from its complete shape.

However, even though it wasn't completely formed, the aura that came from the dragon already made her feel extremely terrified.

Yu Tong's expression flickered.

WHOOSH!

Before she could do anything, the Fire Dragon that was condensed from the scarlet, fiery lines abruptly swooped towards her.

Face pale, she hurriedly raised the Blood Edge Shield in her hands, continuously channeling the blood-attributed spiritual power that had been spread in the vicinity by Feng Luo, and forming an enormous blood-colored light curtain in front of the actual shield.

BANG!

With a loud clash, the ten-meter-long Fire Dragon rammed into the curtain, shattering it savagely.

After the head of the dragon had shattered the blood-colored

light curtain, it ruthlessly crashed into the surface of the Blood Edge Shield.

Fresh blood came pouring out from Yu Tong's mouth, as if she had just been crushed by a mountain. Meanwhile, the Blood Edge Shield flew out of her hands due to the impact.

Also at that moment, Nie Tian suddenly swooped in. While Yu Tong was still feeling muddled from the attack, he took the opportunity and grabbed her from behind. Then he picked up a curved saber from the ground and pressed it against her slender neck.

“Feng Luo! Let them go! NOW!”

Chapter 116: Soul Attack

The Fire Dragon that had been condensed by the scarlet, fiery strings retained its form after knocking Yu Tong's Blood Edge Shield out of her hand.

Meanwhile, even more fiery light strings fell from the sky and converged on the blurry Fire Dragon, lengthening it to twenty meters.

At the same time, Nie Tian held Yu Tong tightly from behind.

Pressing the curved saber up against her neck, he raised his voice and shouted, "Feng Luo! Release them!"

Everything happened so fast that even Feng Luo was caught off guard. By the time he sensed something was about to go wrong, it was already too late, and Yu Tong had already been captured by Nie Tian.

PUFF!

The blood imps that had been besieging and attacking An Shiyi, suddenly fell and melted into the blood pool under her feet.

Feng Luo stopped attacking An Shiyi.

He glared grimly at Nie Tian and said, "Let go of Little Tong!"

“Let her go?” Grinning, Nie Tian pushed the saber up against her neck and began to slowly draw it to the side.

As he did, a long but shallow wound was cut open on Yu Tong’s slender, white neck. Almost immediately, blood began to flow out.

Standing with the back of her head towards Nie Tian, Yu Tong’s face was filled with humiliation and hate. Yet to recover from her puzzlement, she couldn’t remove her gaze from the Fire Dragon that was still in the middle of forming.

She couldn’t imagine how on earth Nie Tian had managed to summon a Fire Dragon out of nowhere during their battle.

The impact of the Fire Dragon was far mightier than the fist strike that Nie Tian had used in the Green Illusion dimension.

The Blood Edge Shield that she had specially formed to defend the fist strike had completely failed to hold off even one collision from the Fire Dragon, and had immediately fallen apart.

“Still don’t want to let them go?” Ruthlessness filled Nie Tian’s eyes, gripping the saber tightly to make another cut.

However this time, the curved saber didn’t aim for Yu Tong’s neck, but rather, the smooth, fair skin of her face.

When Yu Tong saw the curved saber moving towards her face, she finally looked scared.

From her point of view, Feng Luo not only had An Shiyi under control, but had also trapped Pan Tao and the others. Therefore, Nie Tian would never dare to kill her. At the most, he would use her to threaten Feng Luo.

As for the cut on her neck, she was confident that she could use the secret magics of the Blood sect to heal the wound without leaving any scars.

That was why fear couldn't be seen on her face until now.

However, the face was the hardest part for spiritual power to extend to. Once her face was cut, she wasn't confident that she could heal it completely.

Her delicate face had always been the part of her that she was most proud of. To every woman who cared about her looks, having a scar on her face was almost impossible to accept.

Nie Tian didn't see her fear-stricken face, but Feng Luo, Pan Tao, and the others all had clear views of it.

"Don't!" Feng Luo hurriedly stopped him.

Nie Tian held his hand still. He didn't say anything, but only stared coldly into Feng Luo's eyes.

Feng Luo glared back at him. Time passed silently... Finally, Feng Luo nodded and said, "Alright! I'll release them!"

With these words, he formed an unusual seal with both of his hands, and used a secret spell of the Blood sect to change the fluctuations of the blood under their feet.

As soon as he cast the spell, Nie Tian saw the blood that had wrapped up Jiang Lingzhu, An Ying, and the others slowly retreat from their bodies, and once again merge with the blood pool under their feet.

Originally, Jiang Lingzhu and the others were unable to move a muscle. When the blood retreated, they suddenly felt a sense of relief.

Then, they realized that not only had they regained their mobility, but they were also free to speak.

Elated, Pan Tao exclaimed, "Good job, Nie Tian!"

After they were freed from the constraint, every one of them gazed at him with mixed expressions of disbelief and delight.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The Fire Dragon formed by scarlet fiery strings floated ten

meters high in the air above Nie Tian's head, where it remained, gathering flame power.

They looked over towards the Fire Dragon, and then looked back at Nie Tian, guessing that it might be a powerful spiritual tool of Nie Tian's...

"I've released them, so it's your turn now," Feng Luo said calmly.

Nie Tian still had firm hold on Yu Tong and had absolutely had no intention of letting her go. "Sister An, you take them and leave. I'll catch up to you later."

Having practically drained her own spiritual energy, An Shiyi frowned slightly and said, "Let's take that girl and leave this place. We can release her when we're no longer in danger."

Feng Luo's face suddenly sank. "Don't even think about it!" He glowered at Nie Tian. "I've already delivered my part. You remember the deal, don't you? If you leave with Little Tong, what's to prevent you from going back on your word and killing her? Do you take me as a fool? They can leave, but you... have to stay!"

"Sister An, you guys go first," Nie Tian urged them anxiously. "Don't worry about me, I'll be fine."

He knew that Feng Luo would definitely not allow them to take Yu Tong and leave as An Shiyi had suggested.

Feng Luo would never allow Yu Tong to disappear from his sight.

The reason why Nie Tian had the audacity to stay behind was because he could detect the aura of the drop of blood from within the Fire Dragon.

At the moment, the flame power that the Fire Dragon had gathered was already so formidable that even Feng Luo wouldn't have the confidence to defeat it.

An Shiyi couldn't decide.

RUUUUMBLE!

Suddenly, a world-shaking explosion rose up from the direction of the short mountain. Apparently, it had completely exploded and was experiencing a catastrophic transformation.

"I'll be fine!" said Nie Tian, giving An Shiyi a meaningful look to remind her that the Fire Dragon was still there.

After hearing the distant, heaven-shaking explosion, An Shiyi took a look at the expanding Fire Dragon, and finally nodded. She said with clenched teeth, "Take care of yourself!"

With these words, she urged Pan Tao and the others to follow her quickly and leave that place as soon as possible.

Knowing that the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range was about to undergo a world-shaking change, everyone was worried about Nie Tian's safety. However, with a look at the Fire Dragon hovering over his head, they were almost certain that Nie Tian would be fine.

Eventually, under An Shiyi's urgings, they chose to leave.

One after another, they all warned Nie Tian to be careful and reminded him of the huge changes that were about to take place in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

"Be careful, Nie Tian!"

"We'll be waiting for you up ahead. Come as soon as possible!"

"You know what's about to happen. Don't waste time!"

Nie Tian nodded vigorously. With a wide smile, he said, "Rest assured, I'll be fine!"

Soon, An Shiyi led the crowd and sped away from Feng Luo's and Nie Tian's sight.

Nie Tian's held his ground. He once again pressed the curved saber against Yu Tong's neck and said calmly, "We will wait for half an hour. Only then will I let her go."

“Alright!” Feng Luo agreed.

He knew that Nie Tian was trying to buy enough time for An Shiyi and the others, but he believed that with his strength, even if they were given a bit more time, he would still be able to catch up to them before they could leave the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

The final result wouldn't change just because Nie Tian had captured Yu Tong.

He was just curious about why this Nie Tian, a kid whose name he had never heard of a year ago, was able to defeat Yu Tong over and over again, overshadowing the pride of their sect.

“How did a kid from the insignificant Nie clan from Black Cloud City manage to cause such huge waves?” Brows knitted together, Feng Luo contemplated. He felt the need to conduct a serious investigation regarding Nie Tian and his growing path.

By this point, he had already begun to consider Nie Tian as the most outstanding junior from the Cloudsoaring sect. He believed that if Nie Tian could continue to make himself stronger, he would definitely be the biggest opponent for Yu Tong, Mo Xi, and the other disciples.

“Little Tong, you only failed this time because he has a powerful spiritual weapon.” Feng Luo was quite careful with his choice of words. Seeing that Yu Tong's eyes were filled with frustration, he

said, “His spiritual weapon is really weird. Even I can’t tell what it is and its exact grade, but I’m sure that it must have been bestowed upon him by Eccentric Wu.

“Being defeated by such a formidable spiritual weapon is not your fault. You shouldn’t beat yourself up.

“If it wasn’t for that unusual spiritual weapon, this brat would have been long since killed by your blades.”

He feared that Yu Tong would drown in despair after this defeat. Therefore, he tried to console her by trashing Nie Tian.

Nie Tian moved closer to Yu Tong’s ears and whispered, “Hey, don’t listen to his nonsense. If I won because of my spiritual tool, well you... used yours too, didn’t you?

“Even if neither of us had spiritual tools, I still would have defeated you with nothing but my bare fist.

“I bet you can still remember me beating you twice with my fist strike when I was only at the eighth level of Qi Refining.

“During our third fight, you were so reckless that you used the forbidden technique Earth Web. Yet you still failed to kill me. Quite on the contrary, you suffered greatly from the backlash yourself, am I right?

“You will never beat me, so accept your fate already.

“No matter how many time we fight, you will lose, now and always. “

While Feng Luo was attempting to console Yu Tong, Nie Tian was also continuously attacking her with a low voice, leisurely and carefreely. He wanted to manifest a traumatic experience of defeat in her heart that would haunt her and make her feel humiliated and powerless every time she thought of him.

His goal was to plant a seed in Yu Tong's heart that would constantly remind her that she would never beat him.

He knew that perhaps the conflict between himself and Yu Tong would last for years. For such a powerful opponent, so long as he had a chance, he would attack her in every possible way.

Repeatedly humiliated, Yu Tong's face was as cold as frost. She wished that she could turn around and kill him.

However, whenever she wanted to make a move, Nie Tian would move the saber closer towards her delicate face to remind her that she was his captive, and also what would happen to her if she dared to make a move.

Yu Tong's breath became rapid. Her ample, elegantly curved breasts slightly trembled.

Nie Tian was so close to her that he was able to smell the

tempting, sweet fragrance from behind her ears. When Nie Tian once again opened his mouth to speak, his eyes were caught by her rapidly rising and falling chest.

For some unknown reason, Nie Tian seemed to be possessed by something. Dizzy and confused, he stuck out his tongue and licked Yu Tong's earlobe.

Yu Tong's body suddenly tensed up.

She seemed muddle-headed at first and didn't understand what had just happened.

But merely in a flash, she came to realize what Nie Tian had just done to her.

“Nie Tian!”

With no regard of the curved saber that was held close to her face, Yu Tong seemed to have lost her mind. She forcefully turned around and tried to kill him at all cost.

Yu Tong's beautiful pupils were burning with a raging flame. She was like an enraged female lion, wishing to tear Nie Tian apart and swallow him alive.

Feng Luo saw Nie Tian's action and was also instantly enraged. “You pervy little bastard!”

Nie Tian had the audacity to take advantage of Yu Tong!

Fuming with rage, he summoned countless blood shadows, together with beams of fierce blood-colored light from the blood pool under his feet, and shot them towards Nie Tian.

Finding himself in the wrong, Nie Tian didn't cut Yu Tong when she forcefully struggled free. As Yu Tong madly turned around to attack him, a cowardly thought rose in his heart for the first time.

After reclaiming his sober mind, he felt a bit embarrassed and realized what he had done to Yu Tong.

“Ahem. Umm... I don't know what happened to me just now.”

Looking very awkward, he immediately stepped back while attempting to communicate with the Fire Dragon.

In the next moment, the Fire Dragon twisted its flaming body, that was now almost forty meters long, and suddenly charged towards Feng Luo.

Nie Tian, on the other hand, turned around and, without sparing the furious Feng Luo and Yu Tong another glance, sped off in the direction of Pan Tao and the others.

Chapter 117: A Catastrophe Looms!

“Nie Tian!”

Yu Tong’s sharp screech echoed out from behind Nie Tian, filled with bone-chilling hatred.

“Little bastard! You can’t run away!”

Feng Luo’s roar was like a sudden clap of thunder that was filled with frenzy.

However, Nie Tian completely ignored him and had no plans of turning around at all. Instead, he further increased his speed to chase after An Shiyi, Pan Tao, and the others.

“That woman’s fragrance is quite pleasant...” he secretly thought to himself.

He also didn’t understand why he had lost his sound mind and licked Yu Tong’s earlobe.

At the time, he had felt that the fragrance on Yu Tong was really quite nice to smell. His eyes had been caught by the fine curves on Yu Tong’s chest and her jade-like earlobe that had only been inches away from him. All of a sudden, he had failed to control the desire in his heart and made such a preposterous move.

After that, he also felt that it was very inappropriate. Therefore, when Yu Tong resisted with full strength, he didn't make that cut with the blade.

However, when he turned around and sped away, he tried not to dwell on the matter, and told himself that not making that slash had already neutralized the rude action that he had committed.

In that way, he cast the whole thing out of his head.

RUUUUMBLE!

World-shaking rumbles were still echoing out from the distant short mountain. An enormous surge seemed to have started with that mountain as the center, gradually rippling outwards and affecting the surrounding mountains.

Anxious to rejoin Pan Tao and the others, he didn't know what was happening there and didn't have the time to look back. Right now, time was of the essence.

He also didn't know how long the Fire Dragon would be able to stall Feng Luo, or whether or not Feng Luo would catch up to him.

He unceasingly released his mental awareness and spread it out to the surroundings as he advanced forward, looking for traces of the spiritual aura of An Shiyi and the others.

BOOM!

An enormous rumble suddenly came from a mountain not far from him. That short mountain shook violently, as if it were about to collapse.

CRUNCH!

Deep, narrow gorges suddenly cracked opened below him, within which the faintly flickering glow of lava could be seen, as if smoldering lava was about to flow out of them at any moment.

“This is not good!”

He constantly jumped about to avoid the gradually widening gorges. Suddenly, his heart shook as he realized that an even more terrible catastrophe was looming.

The Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation had been used to seal the Earth Flame Beast deep underground, and also to stop the eruption of magma. By joining forces and chiseling a hole in it, the Flame Dragon Armor and the Earth Flame Beast had caused great damages to the giant, underground formation, and now it was collapsing!

Only when the Heaven Burning Earth Flame had completely lost its effectiveness, would the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range undergo such drastic changes!

The magma which existed within the depths of the earth's core of

the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range was now no longer held back by the restrictive force of the grand spell formation, and raging flames and lava were now finding their way out in every area of the mountain range!

It wouldn't be long before all of the so-called extinct volcanoes in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range became active and spewed out terrifying, burning lava.

Just as he was pondering in his reverie, An Shiyi's soft cry suddenly rang out, "Nie Tian!"

He looked into the direction which her voice had come from, and saw that An Shiyi and the others were anxiously looking at him from the foot of a sparsely vegetated mountain.

Only after he got closer and everyone had a clear look at him, did they finally let out sighs of relief.

However, he could still see the anxiety and uneasiness within their eyes, as if they had an even more enormous problem waiting for them.

"Why did you guys stop here?" Nie Tian asked with a surprised expression.

According to his calculations, An Shiyi and the others should have been somewhere further away by this time, not here.

The place they were currently at was too dangerously close to Feng Luo and Yu Tong. Once they broke free, they would be able to get to that place within a short time.

If Feng Luo had cast away the idea of helping Yu Tong wipe out her mental devil, and had simply gone all out to kill them, Nie Tian and his group would already be dead.

Nie Tian said in an urgent tone, “This place isn’t safe! Let’s move out!”

“We also wanted to get further away, but...” A bitter look appeared on Pan Tao’s face, as he walked to Nie Tian and pointed to the area in front of them. “See for yourself.”

Nie Tian looked over with rapt attention, and immediately understood why Pan Tao and the others had stopped.

In front of Pan Tao and the others was a wide gorge that ran deep into the earth’s core, within which boiling lava was slowly surging up to the brim.

Considering their cultivation bases, the gorge was too wide for them to cross.

If they had tried to cross it despite the danger, they would have an eighty or ninety percent chance of falling into the seething lava, and getting themselves reduced to gore.

“Instead of falling into the lava and getting burnt to death, I’d rather battle Feng Luo to the death. Even if we die in battle, it’d still be better than dying in the lava.” An Ying sighed.

A scorching red mist rose from the boiling lava within the gorge, making everyone feel as if they were being roasted alive. Soon they were all soaked in sweat.

That lava was still unceasingly rising. It seemed like it would soon spill over, flowing everywhere.

“This....” Looking at the lava, Nie Tian was also at the end of his wits.

Only Qi warriors who had stepped into the Profound Realm, like his master, would possess the ability to soar through the sky, and therefore be able to fly across the gorge.

Other than them, only powerful Qi warriors who possessed spiritual tools that could carry them into the sky would be able to do the same.

However, just by the expressions on An Shiyi’s and Pan Tao’s faces, he could tell that none of them had that kind of special spiritual tool.

While they were pondering how to cross the gorge, an even more violent surge came from a bald mountain peak nearby.

“Look over there!” Jiang Lingzhu cried out while pointing into a direction.

On the sides of the mountain, boiling lava suddenly spewed out of a number of enormous caves. Following the shaking of that mountain, the streams of lava seemed to be controlled by some unknown force, and shot right up into the sky like a fountain. After reaching their peak, they fell loudly back to the earth like flaming waterfalls.

In an instant, that part of the sky and earth seemed to have become a sea of lava, not allowing any living creatures to survive.

“NO!”

At that moment, a vague yet somewhat familiar figure jumped out from one of the enormous caves, wailing miserably.

The second that man left the cave, boiling, red lava spewed out of the cave behind him.

Just as he reached the point that he would start to drop from the air, the surging lava caught up to him and devoured him.

Although Nie Tian and his group were looking from quite a distance away, they saw perfectly clearly that his flesh had been instantly melted by the lava.

When that fountain-like stream of lava reached its peak and

dropped towards the ground, the man was already stripped of his skin and flesh, and reduced to a melting skeleton, falling to the ground together with the smoldering lava.

They all knew that before even reaching the ground, his bones... would be completely melted.

“That was Fei Li.” An Shiyi’s expression was complicated as she spoke.

Nie Tian didn’t see any complacency on her face, but on the contrary, he saw helplessness and bitterness since they were actually in a similar situation.

Nie Tian knew how much An Shiyi had hated Fei Li and wished for his death. However, now that Fei Li had truly died, and in an extreme miserable way, she actually didn’t feel the slightest bit of joy.

The reason why she felt that way was because she felt that she would soon suffer same fate as Fei Li.

“Staying here isn’t the way,” Pan Tao’s eyes searched around and he suddenly said, “There are some mountains nearby that haven’t collapsed yet. Considering the situation we are in, it would be impossible for us to get out of here before lava fills the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. Instead of staying here, why don’t we go find a mountain that hasn’t collapsed, and temporarily hide on its peak.

“Of course, this may not change the result, and we could still die in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

“However, we might be able to last a bit longer after the lava covers the land of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

“Perhaps, we can find a way to escape within that period of time. Or... someone may discover us and save us.”

Pan Tao looked towards the crowd and gave his suggestion, the idea that seemed wisest at the moment.

“Pan Tao is right.” An Shiyi was the first one to agree.

She forced herself to calm down and observe the surrounding mountains. She spotted a stone mountain, on sides of which there weren't too many caves. Despite the violent earthquakes, that mountain was still standing tall and didn't show any signs of collapsing.

“That one!” She pointed towards that stone mountain.

Upon hearing her words, Nie Tian also noticed the tenacity of that mountain. He nodded and said, “Alright! It's decided then. Let's run to the peak of that mountain at our fastest speed!”

By that time, everyone had reached an agreement and tossed away their delusions of crossing the enormous gorge. They turned around and rushed towards the nearby mountain.

CRACKLE!

On their way to the mountain, the earth kept shaking violently, forming more and more long, narrow gorges on the ground.

Accompanied by the loud rumbles, a few nearby mountains could no longer bear the intense quakes and were about to collapse, while some other ones were spewing out tons of burning lava.

“Hurry!”

They drew from their spiritual power and ran madly forward, crossing many long and narrow gorges, and avoiding many streams of slow-flowing lava before gradually reaching that stone mountain.

“Hurry and get to the top!”

Constantly helping each other, they dashed towards the peak of the mountain through the craggy stone path.

Chapter 118: Purgatory of Burning Lava

At the same time...

HUFF! HUFF!

In the middle of its fierce fight with Feng Luo, the 40-meter-long, partly-shaped fire dragon seemed to have received some kind of summoning, and suddenly flew towards the short mountain that Nie Tian had escaped from.

It had gathered a considerable amount of power from the air, and it carried the aura of a formidable Flame Dragon.

Currently, it seemed to be attracted by the Flame Dragon Armor. It abandoned Feng Luo and stopped attempting to buy Nie Tian more time to escape.

The Fire Dragon had left. However, Feng Luo didn't have the slightest bit of relief on his face; quite on the contrary, it became increasingly grim.

Moments ago, he was fuming with rage and wished to drain and refine all of Nie Tian's blood.

As Yu Tong's martial uncle, the obscene action that Nie Tian had done to Yu Tong made him extremely angry.

However, he had stopped thinking about the possible damage that Nie Tian could inflict on Yu Tong's soul. Instead, his eyes and all his attention were locked on the nearby trembling mountains and the unceasingly cracking earth.

Yu Tong had also calmed down from her previous frenzied state.

“Uncle Feng, what's happening to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range?” She sounded panicked.

Mountains collapsed and cracked open, revealing lava-filled gorges that fractured the earth. All of this signified that the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range was undergoing a world-changing upheaval.

Facing such a heavenly power, she was seized by a deep feeling of powerlessness, and felt that she might be destined to die there.

That threat of death was so terrifying that it even made her temporarily forget about what Nie Tian had done to her.

“Now I know why An Shiyi would say something like that just now. They... knew what would happen, and they knew that the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range was about to undergo a drastic change!” Feng Luo took a deep breath and looked off into the direction of the Spiritual Treasure sect. His expression as dark as the deepest ocean, he said, “This time, our operation against the Spiritual Treasure sect might be greatly affected by what's happening to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. Many of us may die too.”

The area that they were in was already rather far from the valley of the Spiritual Treasure sect. However, he knew that because of what was happening, the most afflicted area might be the valley where the Spiritual Treasure sect was located.

A large group of experts from the Ghost sect and the Blood sect were there, but only two of them were in the Profound Realm, and thus possessed the ability to soar in the sky.

The others' cultivation bases hadn't reached the stage that would allow them to fly, which meant that besides those two, all the other experts from the Ghost sect and the Blood sect would have to face the same desperate situation that Yu Tong and he were facing now.

Perhaps they would face something even more desperate.

“What should we do?” asked Yu Tong.

Feng Luo didn't answer right away, but rather took advantage of his profound Greater Heaven cultivation base and unleashed his formidable psychic awareness to scan the area and search for An Shiyi and Nie Tian.

After a long moment passed, he opened his eyes and said, “It seems that Nie Tian and his group have also run out of options. Now they are charging towards the peak of a mountain. By doing that, they may be able to delay their deaths for a period of time; it's hard to say how long it'll take for the lava to reach them and if

there's going to be other forms of danger. However, their choice is a wise one!"

"What about us?" Yu Tong asked.

"We'll do the same thing," Feng Luo said decisively. "We'll choose a mountain that seems sturdy, and go to its peak. Then we'll wait for an opportunity to present itself!"

"Alright!" Yu Tong replied.

The two of them adopted Nie Tian and An Shiyi's method. They looked around and found a nearby mountain that looked like it wasn't going to collapse any time soon, and immediately charged over.

On the top of another mountain...

Nie Tian and the others were all panting heavily. They had spent so much energy climbing up the mountain that the moment they got to the top, they dropped to the ground, exhausted.

Normally, they would take out spirit stones and use them to recover their lost energy at the first possible moment.

However, they simply weren't in the mood to restore their strength for the moment. Instead, they all cast their desperate gazes towards the surrounding mountains and rivers below them. Panic and restlessness filled their faces.

They heard heaven-shaking rumbles echo out from the mountains around them. They saw two of them shake violently from side to side and seconds later, numerous cracks appeared on the bodies of those two mountains, indicating they were about to cave in.

On the ground below the mountains, countless cracks were split open by the terrifying shaking.

Lava was already flowing out of the cracks and gradually spreading out to low-lying areas.

Many rivers were now filled with lava and had turned into blazing rivers of fire. If any living thing fell inside, they would suffer the same fate as Fei Li, and be vaporized without even leaving behind their bones.

ROOOOOOAR!

A terrifying roar echoed out from the short mountain that they had escaped from.

Standing on the summit of the mountain, they looked into that direction with their full attention, and discovered that the short mountain had already collapsed and been reduced to many gigantic rocks which rolled out into the surrounding area.

They saw the figure of an enormous beast that was covered in

raging flames suddenly fly out of the collapsed short mountain. The moment it broke free, it threw its head back and roared to vent its burning rage.

Around the mountain that the beast had rushed out of, one short mountain after another continuously shook violently and was constantly hit by the surging magma from the earth's core.

The beast roared for a moment, and after getting a hold of its bearings, it sped off into the distance.

The beast was like a burning meteor with a tail of raging flames. The direction that it chose to charge in was none other than the location of the valley of the Spiritual Treasure sect.

Because of the exceedingly far distance, Nie Tian couldn't get a clear look of the beast's appearance. He could only faintly see that it had a body of a lizard, with four legs, a head that resembled that of a Qilin, and three enormous, flaming tails.

The Earth Flame Beast was probably a hundred meters long, and the aura it released was so intimidating that it seemed to be able to suffocate humans.

An Shiyi's face turned pale. "It's at least a sixth grade spirit beast!"

A sixth grade spirit beast's strength could even match that of a Qi warrior of the Profound Realm. Even Nie Tian's master Wu Ji was

only at the Profound Realm.

However, the Profound Realm cultivation base was already the pinnacle for Qi warriors in the Realm of Flame Heaven. The Hell sect had two Profound Realm experts, while the other sects each had one who had stepped into the Profound Realm.

Being a sixth grade spirit beast, the Earth Flame Beast could be viewed as a terrifying existence across the entire Heaven Leaving Domain, as it was actually at the peak of the pyramid.

Other than Wu Ji, Fang Hui, and the other Qi warriors at their level, anyone else who were to get in its way would definitely be drowned by the lava flames that it breathed, and be reduced to a bloody mess.

WHOOSH!

It wasn't long before the Earth Flame Beast flew further and further away, and finally disappeared from their line of sight. Like a fleeting, burning meteor, it shot towards the area where the Spiritual Treasure sect was.

“Perhaps, it wasn't a bad thing that it broke out from the earth's core,” said Pan Tao.

Everyone was puzzled as they looked toward him.

With a bitter smile, Pan Tao said, “If it was at another time, the

escape of the Earth Flame Beast would doom the Spiritual Treasure sect. However, now... the Spiritual Treasure sect is being ravaged by the alliance of the Blood sect and the Ghost sect, and is already on the verge of being destroyed.

“After the Earth Flame Beast charged out of the earth’s core, it might not only view disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect as its enemies. It’ll attack every Qi warrior that it sees!

“The Earth Flame Beast is extremely grumpy. Having been sealed within the deepest part of the earth for decades, it definitely hates all human Qi warriors. So everyone will be deemed as targets to exterminate.”

An Shiyi’s expression flickered and with a nod, she said, “That makes sense. With its appearance, perhaps... the situation within the valley can be changed. Those from the Ghost sect and the Blood sect definitely won’t imagine that there has been such a terrifying spirit beast hidden within the depths of the earth under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.”

While they exchanged ideas, Nie Tian didn’t speak, but rather used his soul to sense the existence of the Flame Dragon Armor.

He noticed that, when the Earth Flame Beast charged out of the earth core and headed towards the Spiritual Treasure sect, the magical Flame Dragon Armor didn’t go along with it.

He could sense that the Flame Dragon Armor had remained in the earth’s core under the short mountain... it seemed to have

immersed itself deep in the ocean of magma, using the blazing flame power of the magma to restore something.

He had a sudden enlightenment. “The Flame Dragon Armor was damaged?”

Pointing in a direction, Jiang Lingzhu exclaimed, “Look! Over there!”

When everyone looked over, they saw that there seemed to be two human figures on top of another standing mountain that was not very far away from them.

An Shiyi narrowed her eyes to get a better look of the two figures, then she said, “It’s Feng Luo and Yu Tong. Those two are pretty lucky. I can’t believe they actually survived and found a safe place like ours.”

Pan Tao felt relieved and said, “That’s actually good news. Lucky for us, they didn’t catch up to us. If they did, and got up the mountain where we are, we would have nowhere to run.”

After hearing his theory, everyone thought about it, and also let out sighs of relief.

They all realized that the reason why they could escape from Feng Luo and Yu Tong was completely because Feng Luo was too confident and insisted on Yu Tong killing Nie Tian herself, to help her get rid of her inner devil.

If Feng Luo hadn't behaved so arrogantly, but instead went all out to attack Nie Tian, no matter how many mysterious tricks Nie Tian had up his sleeves, he wouldn't have been able to help everyone escape.

Everyone talked to each other about the situation they were facing, about how grateful they were to still be alive, and about how uncertain they felt their future looked.

However, they were completely unaware how lucky they actually were to have a peaceful place to stand on and the privilege of talking to each other.

That was because, at the moment, the Spiritual Treasure sect was already full of scattered corpses. Countless experts from the Ghost sect, the Blood sect, Qi warriors of the Spiritual Treasure sect, as well as guests from other sects that had come to participate in the Treasure Convention had all suffered significant casualties.

While they were in the middle of their fierce battles, the earth under their feet suddenly started to shake violently, and then the three volcanoes that had always stood tall in three directions of the valley, suddenly erupted with blazing lava.

In a split second, the eruption of the three volcanoes turned the valley into a purgatory of burning molten rock!

Just as everyone was shrieking with fear and speeding away in all directions, the Earth Flame Beast that had just broken free

suddenly appeared from the sky. Like a flaming meteor, it plummeted toward the mountain valley.

Chapter 119: Great Calamities Are Always Followed by Great Fortunes

While the Spiritual Treasure sect was being baptized by unending, bloody battles, Nie Tian and his party were quietly sitting down at the peak of the stone mountain, waiting.

They had already used spirit stones to recover the spirit energy that they had lost earlier. Currently, they were gazing off in the direction of the Spiritual Treasure sect, unsure of what to do next.

The low-lying ground around the mountain had already been turned into a sea of boiling lava, and many mountains had collapsed.

Unless they could grow wings, there was no possibility that they could leave the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, which had already turned into a purgatory of smoldering lava.

Fortunately, because of the food deficiency incident that they had endured in the Green Illusion dimension, Jiang Lingzhu and Pan Tao had both picked up the habit of storing large amounts of dried meat in their bracelets of holding. Therefore, no one was worried about food.

Time flew. The day passed and night descended.

When the cold crescent moon once again rose into the night sky, the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range had already become

dazzling and bright due to the lava that was practically everywhere.

Pan Tao looked off into the distance. Face grim, he said, “After this battle, not only our sect, but the Ghost sect and Blood sect will also suffer great losses. They would never have thought that there was a terrifyingly strong Earth Flame Beast hidden within the earth’s core under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. God knows how long that Earth Flame Beast had been confined there, and for how many years it has been gathering enough flame energy to form enough lava to fill the entire Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

“Admittedly, our sect will suffer disastrous losses after this battle. However, I believe that the Ghost sect and the Blood sect will also regret invading us.”

An Shiyi heaved a sigh and said, “If the Ghost sect, the Blood sect, and our sect all suffer great damages because of this incident, and the three Profound realm experts also sustain different degrees of injuries, this might cause a profound and lasting impact on the entire Realm of Flame Heaven.”

Upon hearing her words, Pan Tao seemed to have thought of something, and his expression slightly flickered.

Curious, Nie Tian asked, “What are you worrying about?”

“The nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars aren’t exactly getting along peacefully.” Pan Tao frowned. “If Lai Yi and his people can use the ancient inter-spacial teleportation portal to

get to the Realm of Flame Heaven, so can others. If experts from the other eight realms learn about the ongoing turbulences in the Realm of Flame Heaven, and that the major sects have all taken heavy blows, perhaps they will come up with the idea of invading our realm.

“Although fights between realms are pretty rare, it doesn’t mean that they have never happened before.

“No matter how bitter and fierce the internal fights are in the Realm of Flame Heaven, they won’t be even comparable to inter-realm wars. If an inter-realm war were to break out, that would be the ultimate danger to the Realm of Flame Heaven. If that day actually comes, people will be plunged into an abyss of misery. Qi warriors, mortals, mountains and lakes, cultivation Blessed Lands, and spirit beasts could all disappear because of it.”

Nie Tian’s expression flickered. “An inter-realm war!”

He had also learned from his master Wu Ji that the nine realms hadn’t always maintained peaceful relations, and that wars would break out between them every now and then.

According to Wu Ji, even at present, two realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars were still engaged in a bloody war which had already dragged on for over a hundred years...

In inter-realm wars, whether it was the scale, or the number of experts that participated in them, or the damages that were caused to both realms, they would all far surpass the internal wars in the

Realm of Flame Heaven.

Furthermore, according to Wu Ji, there seemed to have been more than nine realms within the Domain of the Falling Stars once upon a time.

Some realms had been plagued by never ending wars and ended up damaged to a point where they were no longer suitable for any living creature to inhabit. Now, those realms were no longer part of the Domain of the Falling Stars.

The most terrifying result of an inter-realm war would be an entire realm being completely destroyed and turned into a wasteland.

At that moment, An Ying pointed to a river of lava and joyfully said, “Sister! Look! Look what’s in the lava river!”

Everyone looked over with rapt attention, and noticed that there were shiny, crystal-like gems in the lava river. Even though they were within a river of flames, it was hard to cover up their radiance.

They were transparent, sparkling, and reflected red glares like shining stars within the burning river.

An Shiyi’s eyes lit up. “Flame Crystals! Those are level two Premium grade fire-attributed spirit materials!”

Surprised, Pan Tao said, “It seems that, with the eruption of the magma, the Flame Crystals, products of the condensation of the pure power of fire, were flooded out of the depths of the earth’s core. They are a true blessing. To any equipment forger, or fire-attributed cultivator, Flame Crystals can be considered as very rare and valuable items.

“What a waste. If only we could collect some of them. We would make a fortune out of them.

“Not only are Flame Crystals very hard to find in the Realm of Flame Heaven, they are also highly valued in the other eight realms, and can be traded for many treasures.”

Those who knew about how valuable the flame crystals were, all had greedy looks in their eyes, but their faces were filled with pity and disappointment.

“Over there!” Jiang Lingzhu extended her arm and pointed towards an enormous rock.

That rock came from a surrounding mountain that had recently collapsed. Following the collapse of the mountain, it had rolled out from the belly of the mountain.

Embedded in the huge rock, sparkling and brilliant strings of flame could be seen, which were very much resembled the crystal-like ribbons that Nie Tian had previously seen in the depths of the earth’s core. There were faint, mysterious patterns of flame within each of them, and those patterns... seemed to be constantly

flowing, as if there was some kind of profound truth about the power of fire hidden within them.

“They have flame channels inside! They are... Earthflame Crystal Strings!” An Shiyi’s body shook with excitement, and a brilliant light flashed across her pupils. Eyes fixed on the glittering strings of flame, she excitedly said, “They are level seven Premium grade spirit materials! There are flame channels within the Earthflame Crystal Strings, within which lie the secrets of the flame power! They are indispensable materials if one wishes to forge Spirit Channeling grade fire-attributed spiritual tools!

“Even Qi warriors who don’t refine spiritual tools or practice fire incantations can use the crystal channels within the Earthflame Crystal Strings to gain enlightenment of the profundity of flame power hidden within them!

“The depths of the earth’s core under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range has actually created the perfect environment to give birth to Earth Fire Crystal Strings! This is definitely thanks to the Earth Flame Beast!”

An Shiyi was endlessly excited, and she danced about as she shouted. Her appearance suggested that she wished that she could immediately charge down to collect those Earth Fire Crystal Strings.

“God damn!” Pan Tao cried out. “Feng Luo and that witch Yu Tong have made a move!”

Nie Tian looked over toward the other mountain peak, and discovered that Feng Luo and Yu Tong were sliding down from the top of the mountain.

At the foot of that mountain, there was also a long lava river, within which a large number of Flame Crystals were sparkling with bright light.

“Do they want to die?” After a moment of silent pondering, Jiang Lingzhu continued, “Wait a minute! There’s actually is a way that will allow us to collect the Flame Crystals! As long as we put big rocks in the lava river, we can step on them to gradually move closer to the side of that lava creek where we can then use our spiritual tools to fish up those Flame Crystals from the river!”

Upon hearing these words, everyone became thrilled and clamored to get down the mountain and collect the Flame Crystals.

As they knew, the Flame Crystals were considerably valuable, especially for disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect, since their sect might not be there when the whole thing was over. If they could gain some Flame Crystals, they could still use them to exchange for the spirit stones and spirit materials needed for their cultivation.

If there was an opportunity, they could even leave the Realm of Flame Heaven and exchange them for high-ranked spiritual tools in other realms!

As the saying goes, birds die for food, people die for money.

Despite the fact that they hadn't truly escaped danger and their future was still full of uncertainty, every one of them was now seething with excitement due to the appearance of the Flame Crystals.

Nie Tian hadn't expressed his stance in this, yet the group of people had already moved out, imitating Feng Luo and Yu Tong by descending from the mountaintop.

"These guys..." He whispered to himself.

However, he didn't want to stay behind on the mountaintop by himself. Thus, he followed them down.

The mountain wasn't high, and it took far less time to get down the mountain than to climb to the top. An hour later, they had all arrived at the foot of the mountain. An Shiyi and the others lifted up enormous rocks from the bank of the lava river and continuously hurled them into the lava.

The huge stones continued to pile up from the bottom of the river. When everyone saw that the rocks had piled to a point where they were protruding out of the lava's surface, they all became high in spirits and excitement could be seen on their faces.

Before long, the rocks that had stuck out formed a line of stepping stones that led into the creek that contained sparkling Flame Crystals.

“Let’s go!”

An Shiyi lunged forward so quickly that she turned into a line of fiery light, and in the next moment, she gracefully landed on the rock that was the closest to the bank.

She only adjusted for a moment before continuing to jump to the next rock. Using the rocks as stepping stones, she headed towards the target creek.

Behind her, An Ying and Pan Tao followed suit and jumped forward, as they also longed for the Flame Crystals which they could make good use of in the future.

Nie Tian was about to move out when he suddenly sensed the aura of the Flame Dragon Armor. He couldn’t help but narrowed his eyes to sense it with rapt attention.

He found that the Flame Dragon Armor was still quite far away from him. Apparently, it had already flown out from the depths of the earth, and was now wandering about in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Just like them, it also seemed to be collecting something.

Chapter 120: Spirit Channeling Precious Treasure

In a place that Nie Tian couldn't see, the Flame Dragon Armor flew out of the depths of the earth's core and soared into the night sky.

At that moment, it floated in the air, emanating fierce, fiery light like a wildly burning sun.

WHOOSH!

All of a sudden, the Flame Dragon Armor whistled across the sky and arrived above a lake of boiling lava.

There were hundreds of stones of various sizes within it, with the smaller ones being the size of millstones and the bigger ones being as huge as tall buildings.

BOOM! BOOM!

As soon as the Flame Dragon Armor shifted there and stopped in the air over the lava pool, those stones of various sizes all exploded into pieces.

After two of the enormous rocks shattered, dazzling Earthflame Crystal Strings appeared from within the rubble like slender, flaming ribbons.

In the next moment, those Earthflame Crystal Strings, filled with profound essence of fire, were manipulated by the Flame Dragon Armor and turned into beams of fiery light that suddenly shot towards the armor itself.

The light beams were like water drops that had merged into the sea. Once they touched the Flame Dragon Armor, they instantly vanished into it, not even leaving a trace.

On the other hand, fragmented ancient magical symbols appeared on the surface of the Flame Dragon Armor, along with delicate flame patterns.

After it absorbed all the Earthflame Crystal Strings within the lava lake, the Flame Dragon Armor flew away and proceeded towards its next target.

The Flame Dragon Armor, which had left Nie Tian and spent some time in the magma of the earth's core, seemed to have developed a fully independent consciousness. It unceasingly sought out Earthflame Crystal Strings within the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range and absorbed them one after another.

Meanwhile, Gan Kang and Lai Yi were standing inside of a vast cave that was close to the peak of a certain cave-filled mountain

Even Gan Kang had not foreseen the heaven-shaking changes that had occurred in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. He had originally planned to leave with Lai Yi and go to the Realm of Dark

Underworld, but was now trapped by the lava that had filled every corner of the mountain range.

Lai Yi, who came from the Realm of Dark Underworld, was both excited and worried. “Earth Flame Beast! There was actually an Earth Flame Beast deep within the earth’s core under the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range!”

He shouted at Gan Kang, “Why didn’t you tell me about this? Aren’t you the fifth highest ranked equipment forging expert of the Treasure school? Don’t tell me that...even you didn’t know that it was hiding under there!”

Gan Kang shook his head. With an complicated expression, he said, “I really didn’t know.”

“What should we do?” Lai Yi’s eyebrows knitted together. “My two friends have already been killed by experts from the Blood sect. With the Earth Flame Beast having broken free, the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range is in a state of total chaos. We need to leave this place as soon as possible. If we stay here for too long, it will be very dangerous for us both.”

“I don’t know how we can get out of here,” Gan Kang said helplessly.

While the two of them were speaking, the Flame Dragon Armor, which was burning like a sun, suddenly flew over.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Numerous stones in the river below the Flame Dragon Armor suddenly exploded into fragments.

The sparkling Earthflame Crystal Strings within the shattered stones appeared and released an intoxicating, fiery light.

They could faintly see many snaking, criss-crossed flame channels within them, wherein seemed to lie the secret truth of flame power.

Knowing about how precious the Earthflame Crystal Strings were, Lai Yi suddenly let out a screech of excitement, “Earthflame Crystal Strings! There are Earthflame Crystal Strings over there!”

However, only seconds later, he found that the Earthflame Crystal Strings that flew out of the shattered stones had all been absorbed by the Flame Dragon Armor, and after taking in the Earthflame Crystal Strings, the fiery light that it emanated became even more bright and dazzling.

“The Flame Dragon Armor...” Lai Yi gnashed his teeth.

“A Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool!” Gan Kang’s expression suddenly flickered.

He stared fixedly at the Flame Dragon Armor and shouted, “Lai Yi, that armor that you put up for sale in the Treasure Pavilion is a

Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool! Why did it not show any signs of its uniqueness previously, and why didn't you tell me that it was such a rare spiritual tool?!"

Gan Kang's biggest dream was to craft a Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool and therefore be promoted to a Spirit Channeling grade equipment forger.

Clearly, the fact that Lai Yi possessed a Spirit Channeling grade spirit equipment but didn't let Gan Kang study the mysteries within it had made him extremely angry.

Lai Yi snorted and said, "Do you really think that I would take it out and sell it in the Spiritual Treasure sect if it was truly an intact Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool? The Flame Dragon Armor was incomplete, and greatly damaged. Without the nourishment of those precious Earthflame Crystal Strings, it couldn't possibly display its true strength, even though it integrated with the Blood Core.

"And the Blood Core was with Nie Tian!

"If I had obtained the Blood Core from him when we were at the cave entrance and sealed the Flame Dragon Armor away, I would have brought it back to my master in the Realm of Dark Underworld. If I succeeded, I would gladly accept any kind of losses within the Realm of Flame Heaven, no matter how great they were.

"Unfortunately..."

With these words, Lai Yi's expression turned grim and disheartened. "After the Blood Core and the Flame Dragon Armor fused, and the Flame Dragon Armor has slowly healed its damage by absorbing the Earthflame Crystal Strings.

"Every Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool has its own soul, and now the soul of the Flame Dragon Armor is already fully awakened. Even I wouldn't be able to do anything now."

Gan Kang was taken aback by his words. He asked, "Who forged the Flame Dragon Armor?"

"I don't know." Lai Yi shook his head and said, "I only know that its last owner died somewhere in a wasted realm within the Domain of the Falling Stars. My master participated in that war. Afterwards, he looted the severely damaged Flame Dragon Armor, but couldn't find the Blood Core.

"We traveled everywhere to ask about the whereabouts of the Blood Core, and went to farthest corners of the domain to search for it. Only recently did we learn that after changing hands many times, it finally drifted to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

"Actually, by coming to the Realm of Flame Heaven, we had hoped find the Blood Core, merge it with the Flame Dragon Armor, and bring the completed Flame Dragon Armor back to our master.

"Who could have thought not only did we failed to obtain the Blood Core, but we even lost the Flame Dragon Armor. The only

thing that I can do now is to return to the Realm of Dark Underworld as soon as possible, inform my master of the strange things that are happening here, and see how he wants to take care of it.”

Gan Kang’s expression flickered. “Don’t tell me that he’ll personally come to the Realm of Flame Heaven for the Flame Dragon Armor?!”

With a vigorous nod, Lai Yi said, “Yes, he will! In order to get the Flame Dragon Armor, he will spare no cost!”

...

Meanwhile, back near Nie Tian and his group...

Via the line of stepping stones that An Shiyi and the others had made, Nie Tian arrived in front of the creek that had Flame Crystals in them, and started collecting Flame Crystals with the others.

He took out the crescent blade that he had obtained during his fight with Yu Tong, and used it to fish up a Flame Crystal that was as red as heated iron. As soon as he pulled it out of the river of lava, he quickly stored it in his bracelet of holding.

Using this method, he managed to pick up a total of eight Flame Crystals from the boiling river. His heart was filled with joy.

Jiang Lingzhu, An Ying, and the others shouted and wrangled.

“Here’s another one!”

“Hahaha! So many high-ranked Flame Crystals! As long as we can get out of here alive, then we will all make a good fortune out of them!”

“Hurry! Get more of them!”

With elated expressions on their face, they concentrated all their energy on gathering Flame Crystals.

At that moment, Nie Tian’s eyebrows raised as he suddenly sensed the aura of the Flame Dragon Armor.

He stopped with his hands, and carefully scanned the area with his psychic power. He discovered that the Flame Dragon Armor was rapidly closing in on him, and its speed was getting quicker and quicker.

He immediately looked into the direction that he had detected the aura of the Flame Dragon Armor!

In the next moment, the violently burning Flame Dragon Armor showed up in his vision, charging over towards them from the distant night sky like a flaming meteor.

“What’s that?” An Ying stood aghast.

One after another, everyone who had been collecting Flame Crystals sensed the anomaly. They all stood up straight and looked towards the source of the approaching ball of flame.

After awhile, the meteor-like Flame Dragon Armor came closer and stopped over an area that was rich in Earthflame Crystal Strings.

“The F-Flame Dragon Armor!” Eyes wide, Jiang Lingzhu stammered, “Uh... isn’t that the armor that you bought in the Treasure Convention?” She looked towards Nie Tian, flabbergasted.

Because the Flame Dragon Armor had been too heavy for Nie Tian, he had once asked her to store it. She recognized it at first glance.

“It really is that armor!” Ye Gumo was also stunned.

BAM! BAM!

In the next moment, the enormous stones that had Earthflame Crystal Strings inside them, suddenly exploded into pieces, and numerous strings seemed to be drawn toward the Flame Dragon Armor, rapidly merging into it.

“It’s floating in the air and moving on its own account! This...”

Pan Tao was at a momentary loss of words before he suddenly exclaimed, “It can’t be a Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool, can it?”

At that moment, everyone forgot about the Flame Crystals, and stared blankly at the Flame Dragon Armor that was collecting the Earthflame Crystal Strings, their minds in total chaos.

“A Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tool!?”

Throughout the entire Realm of Flame Heaven, the number of the spiritual tools that had reached the Spirit Channeling grade could be counted with one hand.

At present, no one in the Realm of Flame Heaven was skilled enough to forge a tool of that level, not even the most powerful equipment forger of the Treasure school, Fang Hui.

All the Spirit Channeling grade spiritual tools that currently existed within the Realm of Flame Heaven had been in their respective sects for many years, and were considered as mystical treasures that symbolized their sects.

The Flame Dragon Armor that Nie Tian had bought in the Treasure Convention for nine thousand spirit stones was actually a spiritual tool of that level!?

They simply couldn’t believe it.

**

Feng Luo and Yu Tong, who were on the bank of another lava creek not far away, also stared at the Flame Dragon Armor that was emanating violent flames with shock written all over their faces. “That’s a precious treasure of the Spirit Channeling grade!”

They even forgot to put the Flame Crystals that were in their hands into their bracelets of holding.

“Wu Ji treats this disciple of his a bit too good, doesn’t he?” Feng Luo muttered. “He actually gave such a precious treasure to the Lesser Heaven stage Nie Tian? What the hell was he thinking?”

“Little Tong, it wasn’t your fault that you lost. There’s absolutely no need for you to dwell on it.”

What he didn’t know was that the Flame Dragon Armor was actually purchased by Nie Tian at the Treasure Convention, and not bestowed by Wu Ji.

**

WHOOSH!

Having finished absorbing all the Earthflame Crystal Strings in that area, the Flame Dragon Armor once again whistled away and disappeared into the distance.

However, when it flew further and further away, a wisp of a vague soul will came from the Flame Dragon Armor and directly reached Nie Tian's mind.

“So you need the Earthflame Crystal Strings.” Nie Tian instantly understood its intentions.

Chapter 121: The Reappearance of the Thunder Beast

The Flame Dragon Armor gradually got further and further away until it completely disappeared into the distant sky.

“A Spirit Channeling grade precious treasure!”

Caught in tremendous shock, everyone’s eyes were fixed on the Flame Dragon Armor as it flew away.

Nie Tian’s tightly knitted eyebrows slowly relaxed as he whispered to himself, “It seems that after absorbing the numerous Earthflame Crystal Strings, its hidden soul has finally fully awakened.”

The dragon bone, also known as the Blood Core, had been in his possession since he was one year old, however, Nie Tian had never communicated with it before.

Not long ago, when the blood stone drained had all of the flame power within the Flamecloud gem mine and condensed it into a blood drop, he had only seen a few of its abnormalities. However, he never noticed any trace of the soul aura.

Only when the Flame Dragon Armor abandoned him and drilled into the earth’s core on its own account, despite his calling, did he come to realize that the Blood Core might have its own consciousness.

However at that time, he could only faintly sense some kind of connection between him and the Blood Core.

But just a moment ago, he had clearly received a wisp of a miraculous soul fluctuation from the Blood Core.

That soul fluctuation went straight to his soul sea, making him instantly understand that the seemingly strange behaviors of the Flame Dragon Armor were precisely for the purpose of collecting the Earthflame Crystal Strings from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

It seemed that the Flame Dragon Armor needed them to further awaken its soul and at the same time, repair the damages it had sustained.

From the soul intent that it had transmitted to him, Nie Tian understood that the Flame Dragon Armor would return to his side after it had finished gathering every single remaining Earthflame Crystal String in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

He immediately felt reassured.

“Hey!” Separated by numerous magma-filled ravines and creeks, Feng Luo was standing on top of a huge rock. He suddenly let out a cunning laugh and said, “Eccentric Wu has indeed become a dotard; he actually bestowed a Spirit Channeling grade treasure upon a Lesser Heaven stage kid! Did he forget that Spirit Channeling grade treasures have their own souls?”

“The soul is what truly controls the Spirit Channeling grade treasure. The souls choose those who can use them.

“How would a Spirit Channeling grade treasure be willing to be manipulated by a weakling at Lesser Heaven stage?

“Now look at this! The Spirit Channeling grade treasure that Eccentric Wu had gone through great lengths to obtain, has left on its own account. Knowing about this, Eccentric Wu will regret giving it to Nie Tian to the point that his intestines turn green!”

To make sure that Nie Tian and his group could hear him, Feng Luo intentionally raised his voice, and yelled in a taunting tone.

As he saw it, the departure of the Flame Dragon Armor was because it looked down upon its new owner Nie Tian due to his lack of strength and poor cultivation base, and deemed him undeserving to use it. As a result, it abandoned Nie Tian.

Even though he mocked Nie Tian with his words, his eyes seemed to be fixed in the direction that the Flame Dragon Armor had left in, his face filled with jealousy.

Spirit Channeling grade treasures were extremely rare in the Realm of Flame Heaven. He found it somewhat frustrating to watch such a precious and rare treasure slip away from in front of his eyes, while he could do nothing to stop it.

Nie Tian turned a deaf ear towards his mockery. With a tranquil and calm face, he seemed totally indifferent.

Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo, who knew that the Flame Dragon Armor had actually been bought by Nie Tian at the Treasure Convention, did not respond to Feng Luo, but instead, looked towards Nie Tian, not saying a word.

When An Shiyi, An Ying, and Pan Tao saw that the Flame Dragon Armor had left, they secretly felt anxious for Nie Tian.

“Well...” Jiang Lingzhu hesitated for a while and asked, “did you know that it was a Spirit Channeling grade treasure when you bought it?”

Upon hearing these words, Pan Tao and the others all became intrigued, and also cast their gaze towards Nie Tian, eyes wide.

By that point, they had learned that the Flame Dragon Armor was something that Nie Tian had obtained at the Treasure Convention. However, they were all shocked by Nie Tian’s perfect judgment, and his insightful eyes that were bright like a torch.

Being capable of identifying a Spirit Channeling grade treasure and obtaining it before it showed any sign of its brilliance, that kind of ability... should be something that only the top equipment forgers like Fang Hui could possess.

“No, I didn’t.” Nie Tian shook his head. “It was pure luck!”

“Save it!” Jiang Lingzhu glared at him out of the corner of her eye and snorted. “Uncle Liu already told me everything. He said that the Flame Dragon Armor had been appraised by equipment forgers of the Treasure school to be nothing but a third level Medium grade spiritual tool, which definitely wasn’t worth nine thousand spirit stones! No one showed any interest in it even though it had been displayed for so long. Why did you set your mind on it and want to buy it when everyone else advised you against it and wouldn’t even bother to ask about it?”

“Third level Medium grade?” Pan Tao smiled bitterly and said, “Those useless morons of the Treasure school! They couldn’t even tell that it was a Spirit Channeling grade treasure!”

Among the crowd, An Shiyi was the only one who had calmly pondered for a while before saying, “It’s unlikely that those people in the Treasure Pavilion were mistaken. There must have been some abnormalities in the Flame Dragon Armor before. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have been appraised as a third level Medium grade spiritual tool. Oh, right. The Flame Dragon Armor belonged to that foreign Qi warrior Lai Yi, who previously demanded you to hand over some Blood Core. Does the Blood Core he spoke of have anything to do with the Flame Dragon Armor?”

“You’re pretty smart, Sister An.” Nie Tian smiled, but did not elaborate.

Upon hearing Nie Tian’s words, everyone was convinced that the reason Flame Dragon Armor didn’t show any abnormalities early on must have something to do with so-called Blood Core in Nie

Tian's possession.

Ye Gumo was confused. "Nie Tian, how come you don't seem sad at all? The Flame Dragon Armor is a Spirit Channeling grade precious treasure, and since it has abandoned you and left, shouldn't you be fuming with anger or drowning in regret?"

"It was something I obtained by luck in the first place, so losing it isn't a big deal." Nie Tian sounded like he didn't care at all.

Jiang Lingzhu was the first one to voice her disbelief. "What kind of fools do you take us for!"

After the Flame Dragon Armor had left, everyone chattered on and on about it. They talked about the miraculousness of the Flame Dragon Armor as they went on to collect more Flame Crystals.

The group of people spent half the night collecting all of the Flame Crystals that could be seen in the lava creek.

They saw a few Flame Crystals in a distant lava lake, glittering with sparkling, fiery light under the night sky.

However, the lake was full of lava and seemed much deeper than the creek. It would be far more difficult to fish up those Flame Crystals from the bottom of the lake.

Besides, the lake was too far away from them, and there weren't

enough fallen stones around them that they could use to make a path all the way to the pond.

After a few attempts, they were convinced that it was indeed an impossible task, and returned to the mountain peak through the path they had come from.

Later that night, the party returned once again to the mountaintop, where they silently checked the Flame Crystals that they had gathered.

There was a small pile of Flame Crystals stored within Nie Tian's bracelet of holding. He counted a total of nineteen pieces.

As a Premium grade spiritual material, one Flame Crystal had the value of nearly a thousand Flamecloud gems, the kind that the Nie clan used to mine. To match the value of those nineteen Flame Crystals, the Nie clan would have to mine Flamecloud gems for about ten years.

Nie Tian secretly sighed with mixed emotions. "So the things that the entire Nie clan gains for ten years of hard work could just barely match the value of a handful Flame Crystals."

It wasn't until then did he understand the how big of a difference there was between spiritual materials of different grades.

RUUUUMBLE!

Deep into the night, terrifying rumbles echoed out from the direction of the Spiritual Treasure sect, which were occasionally accompanied by the violent howl of the Earth Flame Beast.

Even though there was a significant distance between them, the thunderous roars of the Earth Flame Beast could still be heard, which indicated that the formidable Earth Flame Beast was now in a frantic state.

Everyone at the mountain peak all had grim faces as they realized that the loud noises came from the Spiritual Treasure sect. They did not have a clue of how bad the situation was over there.

Feeling insecure at heart, they all waited in silence.

As the curtain of night lifted and daylight shone on the Realm of Flame Heaven, the thunderous howls continued to ring out from the Spiritual Treasure sect.

It wasn't until the day gradually darkened again did the attentive crowd notice that the levels of the lava that had filled the mountain range started to slowly go down as the lava seeped back into the earth.

This discovery greatly raised everyone's spirits, and let them see the hope to survive.

It was precisely the burning lava that had kept them from leaving the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Once the lava seeped back into the earth and the ground reappeared, they would get the opportunity to escape from the troublesome Scarlet Flame Mountain Range and get somewhere safe.

Sitting quietly on the mountaintop and gazing into the distance, Nie Tian suddenly felt a faint, unusual movement. “Hmm!”

The unusual movement came from within his bracelet of holding, more specifically from the command medallion that his master Wu Ji had given him.

Puzzled, he took out the command medallion. He carefully examined it but did not see any abnormalities.

However, seconds later, the sharp cry of the Thunder Beast echoed out from deep within the clouds.

“The Thunder Beast!” Nie Tian eyes immediately glittered with light of excitement.

Since the Thunder Beast was able to fly him to the Spiritual Treasure sect, it could also take him and soar away from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, pulling him out of this troublesome place.

After more consideration regarding the unusual movement of the command medallion, he suddenly realized that the Thunder Beast

must have been looking for him all around the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range via the connection between it and the command medallion.

There seemed to be a certain effective range to the connection between them. Perhaps, the Thunder Beast had already been around in other parts of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range for a long time.

It wasn't until now that the Thunder Beast finally flew to this area and detected the aura of the command medallion.

“That's senior Wu's Thunder Beast! We are saved!” Pan Tao seemed overjoyed.

The others also sprung to their feet. Everyone's spirits were lifted as they watched the Thunder Beast slowly approaching from the distant sky, with its outline becoming increasingly clear.

Not long after, the Thunder Beast arrived and landed next to Nie Tian.

Upon touching the ground, it fixed its seemingly intelligent eyes on Nie Tian, as if it was urging him to climb up on its back.

After pondering for awhile, Nie Tian looked into the Thunder Beast's eyes and said, “All of us need to leave the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range as soon as possible. You'll need to let other people to climb onto your back before I do. Otherwise, I refuse to leave.”

He knew that this Thunder Beast was arrogant and hard to tame. Before, it wasn't even willing to take Nie Tian to the Spiritual Treasure sect.

It was all because of Wu Ji's deterrence that the Thunder Beast chose to submit and bring Nie Tian to the Spiritual Treasure sect, albeit reluctantly.

The Thunder Beast's back was wide enough to take everyone and leave. However, Nie Tian feared that it wouldn't be willing to undertake such an arduous but fruitless job.

As expected, as soon as it heard that it need to take everyone along, the Thunder Beast immediately let out a bellow, making its discontent evident to everyone present.

Just as Nie Tian was about to continue with his persuasion, An Shiyi pursed her lips and smiled. She took out three green jade pieces that flickered with lightning from her bracelet of holding and held them near the mouth of the Thunder Beast.

The Thunder Beast looked down at them, and its eyes suddenly lit up. It instantly swallowed all of them, as if it feared that An Shiyi would take them back.

"It's okay now." An Shiyi smiled sweetly and gently fondled the neck of the Thunder Beast before taking the initiative to climb onto its back.

Not only did the Thunder Beast not resist, it even bent forward so that it would be easier for her to get up.

A strange expression appeared on Nie Tian's face. Eyes wide, he stared at the incomparably gentle Thunder Beast and said, "Now I finally understand why you were so reluctant to take me before. It was all because I didn't give you anything in return!"

The Thunder Beast let out another bellow, as if it was saying to Nie Tian, you got that right.

Chapter 122: The Knack of Creating Wealth

“Green Lightning gems!”

Pan Tao exclaimed softly as he watched the Thunder Beast swallow the handful of green, jade-like gems. Then he looked into his bracelet of holding to see if he had similar spiritual materials with him.

He realized that that this fifth grade Thunder Beast had already developed its own intelligence. It was its own master and was not something that could be easily deceived.

The Thunder Beast was a lightning-attributed spirit beast, therefore its cultivation relied on the power of thunder and lightning. Even though the Green Lightning gems were just Elementary grade spiritual materials, they happened to be very suitable for the upgrade of the Thunder Beast's bloodline since they had lightning power within them.

Pan Tao took a while to go through his belongings, yet couldn't find any lightning-attributed spiritual materials. Then he cursed inwardly, “God damn! I didn't store any Green Lightning gems.”

Nie Tian looked at the Thunder Beast with cold eyes, noticing that it stood up immediately after An Shiyi got on its back.

The Thunder Beast's pupils shone with a greedy light as it stared at Pan Tao and the others, as if it were waiting for something.

“Three Green Lightning gems are not enough for you!?” Nie Tian scolded.

The Thunder Beast cast a cold glare at him, and then ignored him. Then it continued to stare at Pan Tao and the others, urging them along with its eyes.

It was telling them to follow An Shiyi’s example, and win its favor by offering it lightning-attributed spiritual materials. Only then would it agree to take everyone along with it.

“Hahaha!” Sitting on the Thunder Beast’s back, An Shiyi suddenly laughed, turning her delicate face into a blossomed flower. Dark pupils glittering with captivating, bright light, she seemed to have come up with a good idea.

“Here!” She took out three more Green Lightning gems, and passed them down along the Thunder Beast’s neck to its mouth.

The Thunder Beast swallowed all of them at once and let out a satisfied low-pitched cry, a joyous expression appearing on its face.

“Her!” An Shiyi lifted her lily-white hand and pointed at An Ying. She said, “You can come up.”

An Ying went blank for a moment, but she soon realized what her sister meant and walked towards the Thunder Beast with a faint smile on her face.

The Thunder Beast once again gently crouched low and bent forward on the ground, letting An Ying climb onto its back effortlessly.

“This spirit beast is... quite interesting.” An Ying smiled charmingly as she mounted the Thunder Beast and sat behind her sister, curiously scrutinizing the creature from head to foot.

Not long after she sat down, the Thunder Beast abruptly stood up again and cast an angry look towards Pan Tao.

Pan Tao stood next to the Thunder Beast awkwardly and gave an embarrassed smile.

Originally, he had planned to secretly climb up the back of the Thunder Beast while An Ying made her way up. However, the Thunder Beast saw through his little scheme in time and had warned him to put a stop to his tricks.

“Brother Ye,” Jiang Lingzhu asked softly, “do you have any lightning-attributed spiritual materials with you?”

Ye Gumo shook his head and said while scratching his hair, “I’ve looked through all my stuff, and can’t even find one thunder or lightning attributed spiritual material. Damn this Thunder Beast. I’m afraid it won’t allow us to climb up its back unless we feed it and please it.”

“I have long since heard about this beast’s snobbishness and greed for treasure,” Jiang Lingzhu said in a cursing tone, “but I’ve never thought it would go this far! We are disciples of the Cloudsoaring sect, and it’s a spirit beast reared by our martial granduncle. I can’t believe that it’s actually imposing its greed on us!”

An Shiyi’s dark pupils shone with brilliant light. “Well... I still have quite a few Green Lightning gems in my bracelet of holding.” Glancing at Pan Tao, Jiang Lingzhu, and Ye Gumo from the corner of her eyes, she said with a smile, “Pan Tao, we are both disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect, so I won’t rip you off. You’ll just need to give me three Flame Crystals and I’ll offer you three Green Lightning gems in exchange. What do you say?”

“Is this the way to do business, Big Sister An?” Pan Tao almost sprung into the air with anger. He said, “Green Lightning gems are only Elementary grade lightning-attributed spiritual materials, but Flame Crystals are Premium grade fire-attributed spiritual materials! You couldn’t possibly be confused about the huge difference between a Premium grade spiritual material and a Elementary grade spiritual material, could you!?”

“One Flame Crystal could at least convert into seven hundred Green Lightning gems. Yet, you want to use three Green Lightning gems to exchange for three Flame Crystals from me. Isn’t that a bit excessive?”

An Shiyi pursed up her lips into a smile. Then she spread out her hands and said, “So that means no deal?”

The appearance of the Thunder Beast had allowed her to see the opportunity to escape from the desperate straits. She knew that since this unusual beast was here, they would be able to get out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range very quickly.

With that in mind, she put her heart at ease and decided to take the opportunity to plunder as much loot as possible.

“No, no deal!” Pan Tao said with decisiveness that could sever nails and chop iron.

“So be it.” An Shiyi showed an indifferent attitude.

Nie Tian, on the other hand, smiled widely, thinking to himself that the resourceful woman in front of him was the true An Shiyi.

An Shiyi seemed to be born with a knack for business dealings and gaining profits. Nie Tian had heard before that the businesses that she had previously managed for the Spiritual Treasure sect had all earned abundant profits.

Aside from her outstanding innate cultivation talent, her skill in the business field was what had caused the sect master to regard her highly.

Today, Nie Tian had finally witnessed An Shiyi’s remarkable ability to plunder wealth.

Pan Tao stared at An Shiyi angrily. He took out a Flame Crystal

and held it near to the Thunder Beast's mouth. "These are Flame Crystals! They are way more precious than those Green Lightning gems. I'm willing to use this Flame Crystal to exchange for the opportunity to leave Scarlet Flame Mountain Range!"

WHOOSH!

The Thunder Beast let out a puff of foul breath that was laced with fine strands of lightning bolts. It did not even spare the Flame Crystal a glance before turning its head to look towards the lava lake in the distance.

There seemed to be a large number of Flame Crystals embedded at the bottom of that lake, glittering with bright and fiery light.

By doing that, the Thunder Beast seemed to be telling Pan Tao that the Flame Crystals he had were not even worth a dime to it. Since the Flame Crystals could be found everywhere in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, it was far from enough to make it carry one more person.

"You foolish beast!" Pan Tao stamped with fury.

However, the Thunder Beast didn't care at all, and kept puffing out foul breaths that were generated from its refinement of the Green Lightning gems.

Calm and well-paced, An Shiyi proceeded to offer a thorough analysis. "You should know that the Scarlet Flame Mountain

Range is not safe. Nobody has any idea what the situation is over at the Spiritual Treasure sect. If the Earth Flame Beast is still ravaging the valley and if the lava seeps back into the earth, many survivors, who were previously trapped on mountaintop like us, will all be able to move again soon enough.

“All other people aside, Feng Luo and Yu Tong are still quite close to us.

“Without the hindrance of the lava-filled rivers and gorges, I believe that Feng Luo and Yu Tong would rush here without the slightest hesitation and murder everyone here all at the first possible moment.

“And this is only the situation as we know it. There could be even more experts out there that we don’t know about.

“Wasting more time in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range is very unwise; it would put us in even greater danger.”

An Shiyi frowned slightly, and with a dignified tone, she explained to the crowd about the serious situation they were in. “Plus, everyone has collected a lot of Flame Crystals just now. Taking out a few to exchange for an opportunity to live, from what I see, is very wise and worthy.”

Nie Tian found it quite interesting to listen to her speak and see her use a scrutinizing gaze to look at Pan Tao and the others. Unknowingly, the corner of his mouth curled up into a smile.

He had already seen through An Shiyi's plan. Clearly, she had seized an exceptional opportunity to loot a few Flame Crystals from the hands of Pan Tao and the others.

“Fine! You win!” Pan Tao snorted. He obediently took out three Flame Crystals, waved them towards An Shiyi, and said, “They are yours now!”

An Shiyi put on a sweet smile. “Smart choice.” She took out three Green Lightning gems and passed them to the Thunder Beast. After the Thunder Beast swallowed them, she pointed her finger at Pan Tao.

As expected, after swallowing the Green Lightning gems, the Thunder Beast obediently crouched down and let Pan Tao up on its back.

After Pan Tao climbed up, he handed the three Flame Crystals in his hand to An Ying, and let her pass them onto An Shiyi, who was at the front.

“So what about you?” An Shiyi turned to look at Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo.

Jiang Lingzhu cursed in a low voice, “Mean old woman!” However, she also had no other choice but to take out three Flame Crystals and wave them towards An Shiyi.

With a bitter smile, Ye Gumo did the same.

An Shiyi shook her head and with a tone that sounded as if it couldn't be more natural, she said, "Sorry, three is not enough. Pan Tao and I are both from the Spiritual Treasure sect, and that's why he could exchange with me one for one. As for you guys... each of you needs to give me six Flame Crystals in exchange for three of my Green Lightning gems."

Nie Tian didn't know if An Shiyi had long since planned for it in her heart or if she had overheard Jiang Lingzhu's curse just now. Whichever it was, An Shiyi seemed very determined.

"Are you insane?" Jiang Lingzhu almost burst with anger. She argued loudly, "The Spiritual Treasure sect has already fallen into such sore conditions, and will probably need aid from the Cloudsoaring sect and the other two sects! And yet you want to blackmail me?"

An Shiyi put away her smile and said with a plain face, "You're right, the Spiritual Treasure sect will suffer great damages after this calamity, and it may even disappear from the Realm of Flame Heaven. And that is the exact reason why I have to obtain as many precious spiritual materials as I can: so that my sister and I can have a secure future. If our sect is gone, then what will we sisters depend on to maintain our foothold in the Realm of Flame Heaven in the future?"

Upon hearing these words, Jiang Lingzhu fell into silence. She looked deeply towards An Shiyi and with a nod, she said, "Fine, now I finally know how fierce you are. If the Spiritual Treasure sect is really destroyed, I'll personally ask my father to recruit you

to the Cloudsoaring sect. We can really use a woman like you in our sect, even though your cultivation base doesn't stand out."

With these words, she took out three more Flame Crystals.

The same went for Ye Gumo.

An Shiyi then took out six Green Lightning gems and held it near the Thunder Beast's mouth. After swallowing them with one motion, the Thunder Beast crouched down once again, letting both Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo up on its back.

By this point, Nie Tian was the only one standing on the ground.

After both Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo mounted its back, the Thunder Beast once again stood up, and raised its head to look into the sky, like it didn't notice Nie Tian's presence.

Originally, it was here to pick up Nie Tian and leave. However, since it had savored a sweet taste from others, it didn't plan to let Nie Tian off.

Looking at its arrogant and laughable manner, Nie Tian realized that if he didn't want to cough up some treasure, he might have to waste a long time arguing with this asshole.

However, just as An Shiyi had pointed out, the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range wasn't safe yet. He really could not afford to waste his time here.

“Sister An, I.....” He reached into his bracelet of holding to get some Flame Crystals as he spoke.

“No, you don’t need to pay me anything.” A wide smile stretched across An Shiyi’s face. She smoothly tossed three Green Lightning gems to the Thunder Beast and squeezed back slightly, giving up the front spot. She waved her hand and said, “Come on, get up.”

Nie Tian chuckled. “Alright.” He jumped onto the back of the crouched Thunder Beast under the strange gazes of Pan Tao and Ye Gumo.

He sat in the front spot. It was so crowded he and An Shiyi were practically stuck together. He threw a vigorous kick at the Thunder Beast and said, “Let’s go!”

With a low-pitched cry, the Thunder Beast opened up its wings and soared into the sky. Under the gazes of Yu Tong and Feng Luo, they headed out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Chapter 123: Karma

With Nie Tian and the others on its back, the Thunder Beast flapped its enormous wings, and slowly disappeared from Feng Luo and Yu Tong's sight, heading out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

By that time, all the powerful experts who had the capability to fly out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range had long since left the disastrous location.

Those who couldn't leave, but managed to survive the calamity, were all scattered on various mountain peaks or in caves, waiting for the lava to seep back into the ground.

Standing on top of a short stone mountain, Han Xin of the Mystic Mist sect pointed at the unusual beast in the distant sky. "That's... a Thunder Beast!"

Seeing that it was flying towards her, she waved her hands at it in excitement.

As it got closer, she caught sight of Nie Tian and his group, who were sitting on its back.

Zheng Bing rose to his feet and looked up at the Thunder Beast, his eyes filled with astonishment. He said with surprise in his voice, "They all made it!"

Han Xin and him had been rather lucky. They did not encounter any trouble after parting ways with An Shiyi and the party. They had attempted to get out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range as soon as possible and then march straight towards the direction of the Mystic Mist sect.

At first, their plan went well. They were secretly glad that they did not stay behind and wait for Nie Tian along with An Shiyi and the others.

But later, great changes occurred in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. Raging lava had spouted out from the earth core. Running out of options, they too, like Nie Tian and the party, had chosen to take refuge on top of a stone peak.

Very quickly after that, boiling lava flooded the entire mountain range and numerous mountain peaks were separated from one another. Fortunately, they survived.

For the past two days, they had been racking their brains, trying to think of ways to leave the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, but none of their ideas ended up being feasible.

Just as they were at their wits' end, the Thunder Beast soared through the sky, towards the mountain peak they were on. Having spotted Nie Tian and the others, Han Xin eagerly waved her hands in elation, hoping that Nie Tian and the others could see her and Zheng Bin.

“Take us with you, please!” Han Xin called out loudly.

Face full of unquenchable excitement, she was practically bouncing with joy, as if she had finally seen a silver lining after waiting for so long.

Zheng Bin, however, stayed silent and did not say a thing.

Pan Tao lowered his chin as he saw Zheng Bin and Han Xin, who were standing on their toes on a mountain peak. He frowned and said, "It's them... What do you guys think we should do?"

A few days ago, Nie Tian had sensed the Flame Dragon Armor's unusual changes while he was in the middle of his recuperation. After Zheng Bin and Han Xin realized that he had dashed off down into the tunnel, they had inwardly despised his recklessness, and thus chose to part ways with the group.

To Pan Tao's surprise, they saw the two of them again when they could finally leave the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Sitting in the forefront, Nie Tian said with a plain expression, "It's too crowded here. We can't make enough room for two more people. Plus, the Thunder Beast may also not be able to take the weight.

"Furthermore, you have all seen that the Thunder Beast wasn't willing to take orders from me. As a matter of fact, it doesn't listen to me at all."

Sitting closely behind him, An Shiyi put both of her hands around his waist, but barely touching him. She turned her face to one side, and glanced at Zheng Bin and Han Xin out of the corner of her eyes. She said with a blank tone, “I have no more Green Lightning gems.”

“I think it’s too crowded, too,” said Pan Tao.

Ye Gumo said coldly, “If the Thunder Beast carries too many people, I fear that it may not be able to stand the weight. What if it falls from the sky? We would all die together, wouldn’t we?”

Jiang Lingzhu snorted and kicked the Thunder Beast’s waist with her foot. She urged, “Fly faster!”

Although no one said it outright, they had all clearly expressed their stance on this matter, which was: No one wanted for the Thunder Beast to stop.

Thereupon, despite Han Xin’s excited shouts, the Thunder Beast whizzed by right over the peak where she and Zheng Bin were, without the slightest intention of stopping.

“They... They left...” Han Xin stood there flabbergasted. Moments later, she suddenly gave out an ear-piercingly sharp scream, “They actually abandoned us and left! Aren’t the four sects supposed to be allies? How could they leave us like this?”

Zheng Bin did not say anything, but rather heaved a sigh and

bowed his head in silence.

At that moment, a strong sense of regret filled his heart. He regretted the decision that he had made days ago.

When Nie Tian had acted on his own account and the others had no idea where he was, he and Han Xin had chosen to abandon them and march on by themselves for their own safety.

Similarly today, when the Thunder Beast had found Nie Tian and carried the others away from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, they abandoned the two of them.

Zheng Bin understood that they were reaping what they had sown.

After the brief interlude with Zheng Bin and Han Xin, the crowd on the back of the Thunder Beast all fell into silence, no one starting a conversation.

Nie Tian also did not utter a word.

After a while, when the Thunder Beast was flying over a deep lava lake, Nie Tian once again sensed the aura of the Flame Dragon Armor.

He was high up in the sky, while the Flame Dragon Armor was deep under the bottom of the lava lake. He could not see the Flame Dragon Armor with his eyes and could only faintly sense it with his

psychic awareness.

“This place is too dangerous, I am leaving.” He tried to convey his thoughts with his psychic power.

Moments later, he received the Flame Dragon Armor’s response in his soul sea.

The Flame Dragon Armor’s response did not have any specific words, but instead, it was only a wisp of a miraculous soul fluctuation, which was already understandable to Nie Tian.

The Flame Dragon Armor wanted him to leave, but also expressed that it would go and look for him in the future.

“It will come look for me in the future...”

Feeling relieved, Nie Tian’s expression immediately loosened up, knowing that it wouldn’t take long for the Flame Dragon Armor to gather all the Earthflame Crystal Strings in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range and then return to his side.

Pan Tao and the others didn’t feel a thing when Nie Tian communicated with the Flame Dragon Armor. Only An Shiyi, who was sitting closely behind him, turned her glittering eyes, and secretly looked down towards the deep lava lake.

She moved closer towards Nie Tian’s ear and asked softly with a voice that only the both of them could hear, “The Spirit

Channeling grade treasure..... is under the lava lake below us, isn't it?"

Her warm and soft voice, coupled with her plump breasts that were now pressed against his back, caused Nie Tian to feel a wave of numbing sensations throughout his body. His mind suddenly went blank along with it.

Only after a while did Nie Tian slowly awake from his reverie. He responded, "Yes." His voice sounded heavy and rough.

"Just now, I sensed that a wisp of your psychic awareness, as fine as a thread, suddenly connect with another thread of soul awareness." Looking at his somewhat embarrassed face, An Shiyi chuckled softly and said, "You... can communicate with it on a soul level, can't you?"

"Umm... it seems so," Nie Tian mumbled.

At that moment, An Shiyi had wrapped her arms around his lower waist. Her curvy physique was now closely pressed up against his back, while she whispered into his ear with a low and soft voice. This caused his blood to surge, making him feel confused and disorientated.

It was the first time he had experienced something like this.

An Shiyi made conversation with him along the way. Not knowing if she was doing it intentionally or if there was too little

space on the back of the Thunder Beast, her ample breasts had been pressed against his back ever since they started talking.

Nie Tian, who had never encountered anything like this, started to become muddle-headed, and almost couldn't make sense when answering An Shiyi's questions.

By this point, Nie Tian's head had already been taken up by the image of An Shiyi's plump chest, their deformed outline as they were squeezed against his back, together with the raptured, wonderful sensation coming from his back.

It wasn't long before he fell into a state where he no longer knew what An Shiyi was asking and what he was answering.

A long time later, he felt An Shiyi gradually loosen her lily-white hands that were previously tightly wrapped around his waist. Furthermore, she slightly shifted backwards to put some distance between them, no longer pressing her body against him.

Only at that moment did he gradually become clear-headed, and recover from the strange, bewildered state.

"Hey little punk, remove your hand from my leg..." An Shiyi whispered softly.

Nie Tian was startled before he quickly realized in the next moment that his right hand had unknowingly stretched backwards and landed on An Shiyi's milky-white, slender leg.

Despite being separated by a light layer of muslin, he could still feel the perfect curve and tightness of her beautiful leg.

“Hurry up and remove your hand.” An Shiyi warned him again with a gentle voice.

Nie Tian subconsciously turned his head to look at the part he was touching. Then he saw that An Shiyi’s loose right sleeve was swaying softly like a curtain, covering her right thigh, and preventing An Ying, who was sitting behind her, from seeing what was happening.

Nie Tian sensed that An Shiyi was quite nervous at the moment. She seemed to be afraid that An Ying would notice, misunderstood, and frown upon her sister.

“Well...” Nie Tian, who had come to his senses, understood her worries. He responded with a low voice and quickly retracted his hand.

After that, Nie Tian didn’t know why, but he actually put his hand under his nose and sniffed.

“You little jerk!” An Shiyi’s gorgeous face was suddenly filled with a red glow. Seized by embarrassment, she bit her bottom lip, and scolded Nie Tian in a low voice.

“It smells so good.” Nie Tian laughed quietly and foolishly.

WHOOSH!

Also at that moment, the Thunder Beast had finally flown out of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, speeding away in the direction of the Cloudsoaring sect.

On the following day, at noon...

When the Thunder Beast flew into Black Cloud City, it gradually slowed down and seemingly refused to go any further.

It slowly descended in front of the main gate of Black Cloud City.

Clueless, Jiang Lingzhu asked, “Isn’t the Cloudsoaring Mountain supposed to be our destination?”

Black Cloud City was already quite close to Cloudsoaring Mountain. Considering the Thunder Beast’s speed, given another fifteen minutes, they would have reached Cloudsoaring Mountain.

However, the Thunder Beast chose to stop at this place.

“I think...” An Shiyi was the first one to jump off the Thunder Beast. Looking at the vague outline of Cloudsoaring Mountain, she said, “Maybe the Cloudsoaring sect is not safe.”

“What?!” Jiang Lingzhu’s face turned pale.

After a moment of pondering, An Shiyi stated her assessment, “The Hell sect, Blood sect, and Ghost sect are all on the same side. However, only the Ghost sect and Blood sect invaded the Spiritual Treasure sect. The Cloudsoaring sect is relatively close to our sect. I believe that experts from the Hell sect are in laying ambush around the perimeter of Cloudsoaring Mountain to prevent the Cloudsoaring sect from coming to our aid.”

Upon hearing her words, everyone came to realize the discouraging turn of events. Seeing that the Thunder Beast had no intent to set out again, they all jumped down one by one.

Wu Tao from the Nie clan was standing on top of the city gate. Waving his hand, he shouted, “Nie Tian! The Cloudsoaring sect is not safe. The sectmaster has ordered everyone to stay in Black Cloud City, and none shall go to the Cloudsoaring sect.”

Hearing his words, everyone instantly realized that An Shiyi’s speculations were correct.

The Hell sect, the strongest among the three sects, had probably already assembled a large number of their powerful experts around Cloudsoaring Mountain, and even had completely sealed off the Cloudsoaring sect, so that no one would be able to get in or out.

Chapter 124: Reappearance of the Strange Man

“Miss An! Little Ying!” An He from the An clan shouted from the tower over the city gate, and raised his hand to greet them.

Nie Tian looked up and discovered that it wasn't just Wu Tao and An He. Yun Zhiguo from the Yun clan was also there.

WHOOSH!

After waiting for everyone to get off, the Thunder Beast fluttered its wings and soared into the sky. In a split second, it disappeared into the clouds.

CREAAAK!

The heavy city gates slowly opened, and with mood that similarly heavy, Nie Tian and his group walked into Black Cloud City.

The great gate faced the direction of the Cloudsoaring Mountain, and normally, it would only close when it the night came.

However, it was daytime now, yet the city gate was shut. Something was clearly amiss.

After a brief moment of pondering, Nie Tian realized that they must have shut the city gate to guard against the experts of the

Hell sect.

However, the truth was that the Hell sect was much stronger than the Ghost sect and the Blood sect. If they truly wanted to breach defenses as weak as Black Cloud City's... how could they be held off?

The moment she entered the city, Jiang Lingzhu said, "My father ordered you to stay in Black Cloud City? Tell me what happened."

Wu Tao from the Nie clan laughed bitterly. "I don't know. It seems that... Cloudsoaring Mountain has been surrounded."

"Miss An, how about we head back to the clan first?" An He asked.

"We'll go the the Nie clan first." An Shiyi replied. "Also, tell the clanmaster to go to the Nie clan, too."

An He nodded. "Sure, will do."

Right after that, everyone headed towards the Nie clan. On their way, Wu Tao briefed them about what had happened over the past several days. According to him, Li Fan from the Cloudsoaring sect suddenly came two days ago, and told everyone to not leave Black Cloud City at any time during the following few days.

However, Li Fan didn't explain to them why. On the contrary, it was the Yun clan, which was attached to the Grayvale sect, that

had obtained some news, and discovered that many unfamiliar experts had been seen lurking around Cloudsoaring Mountain.

Standing on the tower over the city gate, Yun Zhiguo had a complicated expression on his face as he watched Nie Tian and the others walk towards the Nie clan.

“The Thunder Beast... It seems that the kid has really been taken in as a disciple by the old immortal from the Cloudsoaring sect.” Yun Zhiguo heaved a sigh, knowing that because of Nie Tian, the Nie clan’s foothold within Black Cloud City would become more and more stable. Meanwhile, the Yun clan... would no longer have the strength to contend against the Nie clan.

A while later, Nie Tian and the others arrived at the Nie clan.

When Nie Donghai learned that Jiang Lingzhu had returned along with Nie Tian, he warmly came out to receive them, hoping to inquire about what had happened at Cloudsoaring Mountain.

Nie Qian also came out of her house to welcome them.

Before long, An Rong from the An clan also rushed over to the Nie clan after receiving the message from An He.

The people of Black Cloud City hadn’t received news about the enormous changes that had occurred in the Spiritual Treasure sect. Powerful experts from the Blood sect and the Ghost sect had sealed off the entire Spiritual Treasure sect, causing all Sound Stones to

lose effect.

Everyone, including members of the Nie clan and An Rong, assumed that Nie Tian had just returned from the Cloudsoaring sect, therefore they were curious about how they made it out of there.

“We’ve escaped from the Spiritual Treasure sect.” An Shiyi let out a gentle sigh and explained everything in detail.

She told them about the invasion of the Ghost sect and the Blood sect to the Spiritual Treasure sect, about the Earth Flame Beast crashing out of the depths of the earth’s core, and about the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range being turned into a sea of lava.

While she was explaining these things, the elders of the Nie clan also gathered around after receiving the news.

After she finished speaking, the faces of all of the Nie clan members, as well as An Rong and An He, turned extremely pale and grim.

They had never expected that such heaven-shaking changes would occur in the Spiritual Treasure sect. The series of actions of the Hell sect, the Ghost sect, and the Blood sect had already given rise to a cruel domestic war within the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Once a war like that was started, it couldn’t be ended shortly, and would possibly last for many years.

The Nie clan was only one of the subordinate clans that clung to the Cloudsoaring sect. In front of those powerful sects, which had dominated the Realm of Flame Heaven for centuries, the strength of the Nie clan was so insignificant that it could be ignored.

Once a realm-wide bloody war was waged, sooner or later it would drag every one of them into it.

After considering the great bloodshed that would sweep across the peaceful Realm of Flame Heaven, both Nie Donghai and An Rong looked grim, fearful, and lost, all at the same time.

Looking at the long-faced Nie Donghai, Nie Tian thought for a moment before taking out the case that contained the Spiritfount Pill.

“Grandfather, this is a Spiritfount Pill. It’ll help rebuild your shattered spiritual sea.” With that, he passed it over.

“A Spiritfount Pill!?” Nie Donghai was taken aback.

He didn’t have a deep understanding regarding the grades and effects of the various types of pills, and thus hadn’t even heard of the name Spiritfount Pill.

The truth was that Spiritfount Pills rarely appeared in the Realm of Flame Heaven, and with his identity and status, he wouldn’t ever have had a chance to even see one. Therefore, it was natural

that he seemed a bit at lost.

An Shiyi explained, “This Spiritfount Pill is from the Realm of Dark Underworld. Its greatest function is to rebuild a broken spiritual sea.”

Nie Donghai’s eyes suddenly lit up.

Nie Qian was also shocked. With a trembling voice, she asked, “Are you serious?”

An Shiyi gently nodded her head.

“Who would have thought... that I would live to see the day that I recover my spiritual sea and resume the path of cultivation.” The hand that Nie Donghai used to receive the case couldn’t stop trembling, as he was already overwhelmed by excitement.

For many years, he had been dreaming of rebuilding his spiritual sea so that he could continue to cultivate.

Ever since his spiritual sea was destroyed, the gate to his cultivation had been closed forever. That was also why his position in the Nie clan had suffered a disastrous decline, which allowed Nie Beichuan to seize the opportunity and take the position of the clanmaster.

After he lost his power, the clan elders who had previously regarded him highly and supported him also gradually distanced

themselves.

He had shouldered far too much pressure during the past few years, pressure which had almost drowned him and suffocated his desire to resist.

Were it not for Nie Tian making such great achievements and becoming a disciple of the Cloudsoaring sect despite the rules, he would have lost everything.

Nie Qian couldn't contain her joy. "Father, we can take care of the matters in Black Cloud City! You should go back to your private room and use the Spiritfount Pill to rebuild your spiritual sea now!"

"Alright!" Nie Donghai took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. After mentioning something to An Rong in private, he immediately rushed away.

Every member of the Nie clan turned to look at Nie Tian with complete and utter amazement. Many of them were deeply moved.

Nie Tian had actually managed to obtain a precious pill from another realm during the Treasure Convention, a pill that could solve the problem that had been weighing down on Nie Donghai for many years.

Furthermore, according to Wu Tao, Nie Tian had come back to Black Cloud City on a miraculous, flying spirit beast.

They only knew that Nie Tian had been accepted by the Cloudsoaring sect. However, because of their insignificant status, they only heard that a mysterious expert in the Cloudsoaring sect had taken notice of Nie Tian, and didn't even know whether it was real or fake.

Only now did they realize that the young man who previously only had brute force and no cultivation talent had already become an extraordinary figure, [like a fish that had jumped through the dragon gate and become a dragon](#).

All of a sudden, many clan elders, who used to distance themselves from Nie Tian, became very generous with their praises. Faces filled with loving smiles, they rubbed Nie Tian's head to express their support and admiration.

“Hahaha! I always knew that you were beyond ordinary! Nevertheless, I never expected that you'd actually get hold of such a miraculous pill for your grandfather!”

“Good child! The Nie clan is proud of you!”

“Please come back and visit us when you have the time! All of the children in the clan should take you as their role model!”

It was no surprise to Nie Tian that the elders would act in such a way. After exchanging some pleasantries, he quickly made up an excuse saying that he was tired, and left the Nie clan's main hall.

An Rong wasn't as eager to leave. He and the An Sisters found a vacant guest room within the Nie clan, and secretly discussed about what path the An clan could follow if the Spiritual Treasure sect was truly gone.

As for Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo, since they couldn't return to the Cloudsoaring sect, they could only temporarily stay in the Nie clan and wait for news from the Cloudsoaring sect.

Pan Tao also stayed in the Nie clan.

That night, Nie Tian, who was indeed exhausted, didn't practice cultivation in his room as he normally would. Instead, he just sat and meditated in silence.

He pondered the sudden changes that had occurred in the Realm of Flame Heaven, and the likelihood of the major sects waging a full-scale war with each other due to the brutal invasion that had taken place in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Once it broke out, the war could last years or even decades. Then, what should he do?

Deep into the night...

Still thinking hard but finding no answers, Nie Tian suddenly felt something and snapped open his eyes.

Within the dark stone room, a vague figure gradually grew clearer.

“Who is it?” Nie Tian exclaimed.

That figure seemed to have been condensed out of countless beams of underworldly light. Seconds later, the mysterious light seemed to be absorbed into the figure.

“Long time no see, Nie Tian,” the person said with a calm voice.

“Mister Hua?” Nie Tian was flabbergasted.

The visitor in front of him was Hua Mu, the doctor that had saved his life several years ago.

Hua Mu laughed softly. Then, without even the slightest warning, he took out two severed heads from within his sleeve, and placed them on the stone floor. He said, “Do you recognize these two?”

“Gan Kang and Lai Yi?!” Nie Tian was dumbstruck.

The human heads that Hua Mu placed on the floor clearly belonged to Gan Kang, the equipment forger of the Treasure school, and Lai Yi, the Qi warrior from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

“These are the ones you know. There are a few others from the Realm of Dark Underworld who you don’t know.” Hua Mu’s expression was as calm as ever. “I killed everyone who came from the Realm of Dark Underworld, so I believe the information about the Flame Dragon Armor won’t leak out any time soon.”

According to Chinese mythology, the Dragon’s Gate is located at the top of a waterfall cascading from a legendary mountain. Many carp swim upstream against the river’s strong current, but few are capable or brave enough for the final leap over the waterfall. If a carp successfully makes the jump, it is transformed into a powerful dragon. A Chinese dragon’s large, conspicuous scales indicate its origin from a carp. The Chinese dragon has long been an auspicious symbol of great and benevolent, magical power. The image of a carp jumping over Dragon’s Gate is an old and enduring Chinese cultural symbol for courage, perseverance, and accomplishment. Historically, the dragon was the exclusive symbol of the emperor of China and the five-character expression, *Liyu Tiao Long Men*, was originally used as a metaphor for a person’s success in passing very difficult imperial examinations, required for entry into imperial administrative service. To this day, when a student from a remote country village passes the rigorous national university examination in China, friends and family proudly refer to the “*Liyu Tiao Long Men*.” More generally, the expression is used to communicate that if a person works hard and diligently, success will one day be achieved.

Chapter 125: Heaven Gate, Realm Gate, and Domain Gate

After recognizing that the person in his room was Hua Mu, Nie Tian didn't scream, but rather got up and bowed respectfully toward him.

“Mr. Hua, forgive me for my ignorance. Only recently did I realize how much effort you expended to save me.”

By now he was already aware that Hua Mu was definitely not an ordinary person.

His master Wu Ji had once told him, on the back of Cloudsoaring Mountain, that someone had refined his meridians and bones before him.

According to Wu Ji, even in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven, there were only a handful of people who were able to do what Hua Mu had done for him, which was practically giving him a brand new body.

The rewards that his grandfather had granted Hua Mu in return for his kindness were so trivial that they could be ignored.

Furthermore, back then Hua Mu had also promised to Nie Tian that he would help him heal his grandfather's scattered spiritual sea.

Even at that time, he had realized that Hua Mu wasn't ordinary.

Later, his master's assessment of Hua Mu had convinced him that Hua Mu was even more incredible and mysterious than he had originally thought.

"Alright, enough with the courtesy." Hua Mu waved his hand, gesturing for him to cut the pleasantries and take a seat.

After thanking him again, Nie Tian sat back down on the ground. With a puzzled face, he asked, "Mr. Hua, why are you here? And why did you kill Gan Kang and Lai Yi?"

Hua Mu swept his hand in the air and in the next second, Gan Kang and Lai Yi's heads disappeared.

His deep eyes glittered with mysterious, dark-green light. "Actually, it wasn't a coincidence that I showed up in Black Cloud City all those years ago."

Nie Tian was all ears.

"I came to the Realm of Flame Heaven to investigate the whereabouts of the Blood Core," Hua Mu explained. "After spending a long time gathering information, I learned that the Blood Core was obtained by Liu Yan from the Cloudsoaring sect. Then, after a series of secret investigations, I finally confirmed that the Blood Core ended up in the Nie clan."

“The moment I laid eyes on you, I sensed the aura of the Blood Core.

“After realizing that the Blood Core was with you and that it seemed to have accepted you as its owner, I decided to not only cure your fever, but also remove the impurities from your body.”

Confused, Nie Tian said, “Really? Back then, I just carried the animal bone along with me, and it didn’t show any sign of its unique nature.”

With a broad laugh, Hua Mu said, “You’re right. But it was only because you were unable to feel the changes back then. As a matter of fact, it has long since accepted you.”

“Really?!” Nie Tian was taken aback by his words.

“Originally, the Blood Core and Flame Dragon Armor were a set, and I was very close to their former owner.” After a moment of hesitation, Hua Mu continued, “Ever since their former owner died, the Blood Core and the Flame Dragon Armor have been separated. Before the former owner died, I promised him that I would make the Flame Dragon Armor whole again and deliver it to the next owner that it picks.

“It turned out that the Blood Core chose you.

“The reason why Lai Yi brought the Flame Dragon Armor from the Realm of Dark Underworld was that I intentionally leaked the

information to him that the Blood Core might have drifted to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“After collecting that information, Lai Yi obtained the Flame Dragon Armor from his master, hoping to use it to fish out the Blood Core.

“As of now, not only has the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core become a whole again, but it has also repaired its damage with the Earthflame Crystal Strings that it collected from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range after the drastic upheaval.

“Since the Blood Core chose you as its new owner, it will contact you through the link between your souls and return to your side by following your aura, after it has absorbed enough Earthflame Crystal Strings.”

Nie Tian was shocked. “It was because of you that Lai Yi brought the Flame Dragon Armor to the Spiritual Treasure sect?!”

Hua Mu slightly nodded. “I’ve already taken care of everyone who knows about the Flame Dragon Armor and Blood Core, and those who came from the Realm of Dark Underworld. I don’t expect that the news of the Blood Core merging with Flame Dragon Armor will spread to the Realm of Dark Underworld any time soon, nor the fact that they are in your possession.”

“Why did you go to such great lengths to help me, Mr. Hua?” asked Nie Tian.

“For one thing, I did it to honor my word. I made the promise to reunite the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core, and let it choose its next owner.” With these words, Hua Mu remained silent for a while before saying, “For another, I have a favor to ask.”

“A favor from me?” Nie Tian was aghast.

He couldn't help but wonder to himself what a powerful expert like Hua Mu would possibly want from him. After all, Hua Mu had managed to set up a trap to lure Lai Yi to the Realm of Flame Heaven, and after that, kill him along with Gan Kang, as well as every foreign Qi warrior that had come for the Blood Core.

He couldn't figure it out.

“I don't need you to do anything for me now because you don't have what it takes yet. However... perhaps someday you will.” After a brief hesitation, Hua Mu said, “The Blood Core chose you for a reason. You have something on you that's very special. It's just that you can't understand it yet.

“The reason behind the Blood Core picking you as its new owner and your master taking you in as his disciple are one and the same; they both understood your uniqueness.

“As long as you can keep safe and keep up with your cultivation, some day in the future, you'll surely understand what I'm talking about.

“Only when you’ve reached a certain cultivation level and have the ability to fully display the might of the Flame Dragon Armor, will I tell you what I want you to do.

“It’s way too early now.”

“Alright, then.” Nie Tian nodded and gave him his word. “I promise you that when I’m strong enough, I’ll spare no effort to accomplish your wish.”

“Hahaha.” Hua Mu smiled, seemingly satisfied with Nie Tian’s attitude, and continued, “You’re very lucky to have Wu Ji as your master. You can’t possibly asked for a better mentor in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven. Wu Ji may not be the strongest cultivator in the Realm of Flame Heaven, but when it comes to teaching, he’s absolutely the most qualified.”

Surprised by Hua Mu’s words, Nie Tian prompted, “Do you know my master?”

Hua Mu shook his head. “We haven’t met in person, but I know of him.” Then his face suddenly turned serious as he said, “Other than to kill those Realm of Dark Underworld cultivators who had come after the Blood Core, there’s another reason why I’m here. I need to inform you of a major event. Were it not for that, I would have left quietly after finishing off Gan Kang and Lai Yi, and I wouldn’t have come to see you.”

“A major event?” Nie Tian was curious.

With a deep breath, Hua Mu explained seriously, “Occasionally, three gates will open in the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars. They are called the Heaven Gates, which only Qi warriors with a cultivation base of the Lesser Heaven, Heaven, or Greater Heaven stage are able to enter. Those three gates all lead to the same, wondrous dimension, where Qi warriors at the three Heaven stages can temper and train themselves.

“Aside from the Heaven Gates, there are also Realm Gates for Qi warriors of the Worldly realm, Profound realm, and Soul realm to enter.

“Last but not least, there are the Domain Gates, where only Qi warriors of the Void Domain, Saint Domain, and God Domain are able to enter.

“As far as I know, never have Realm Gates or Domain Gates ever appeared in the Domain of the Falling Stars. Only Heaven Gates.

Nie Tian’s expression flickered. “Heaven Gate, Realm Gate, and Domain Gate.”

He had learned from Wu Ji that the cultivation base of a Qi warrior could be divided into ten stages.

After the most basic Qi Refining stage were the three heaven stages: Lesser Heaven, Heaven, and Greater Heaven.

Then, there were the Worldly realm, Profound realm, and Soul

realm.

The Void Domain, Saint Domain, and God Domain were the top stages.

It only happened every so often that the three Heaven Gates would be opened in different parts of the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars, and only Qi warriors of the three Heaven stages would be able to go through those gates and train.

According to Hua Mu, Realm Gates and Domain Gates would only appear in distant domains among the starry sky.

As for the origins of those gates and why they would only appear every once in awhile, Hua Mu made no explanation.

Hua Mu didn't give Nie Tian much time to digest all that information. He went on and explained, "According to the calculations and auguries of some great experts with divine abilities, one of the three Heaven Gates will open somewhere near the Hell sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven this time.

"Some people from the other realms have already secretly informed the Hell sect, the Blood sect, and the Ghost sect of it, with the intent to arrange for some of their cultivators of the three Heaven stages to enter the Heaven Gate which will appear near the Hell sect.

"Every Heaven Gate will only allow 100 participants. As soon as

the Cloudsoaring sect, Spiritual Treasure sect, Grayvale sect, and Mystic Mist sect receive the message, they will undoubtedly spare no cost to arrange for their disciples of the three Heaven stages to get in there.

“By that time, if the Hell sect, Ghost sect, and Blood sect were to stand in the way, fierce battles are bound to break out between the two sides.

“Therefore, knowing that war is inevitable, the other alliance decided to attack the Spiritual Treasure sect before you could receive the message. In that way, they would be able to weaken your side’s strength and cripple your alliance before the war over the eligibility of entering the Heaven Gate.

“There are also powerful foreign forces backing the Hell sect, Blood sect, and Ghost sect, who don’t plan to allow your four sects to take any of their slots into the Heaven Gate.”

After a brief pause, Hua Mu continued, “However, it won’t be long before the news spreads to the four sects. The Profound Realm expert from the Mystic Mist sect, who is out traveling in other realms, has already gotten the news from some foreign sources that one of the Heaven Gates will open up in the territory of the Hell sect.

“He’s already on his way back to the Realm of Flame Heaven. With him hastily coming back, either the Ghost sect and Blood sect’s invasion of the Spiritual Treasure sect will immediately come to an end, or the battles will become even more brutal and ugly.

“I’m afraid the Realm of Flame Heaven will see a period of turbulence before the Heaven Gate is opened, and disciples from every sect will fight tooth and nail for the precious opportunities.”

With a frown, Nie Tian asked, “Is this Heaven Gate thing similar to the Green Illusion dimension trial?”

“The Green Illusion dimension!?” Hua Mu searched in his brain for a while before shaking his head and saying, “No, the trial within the Heaven Gate is far more brutal and bloody than the Green Illusion dimension trial. All the participants will be Qi warriors with cultivation bases of the Lesser Heaven, Heaven, and Greater Heaven stages. What’s more, Qi warriors from the Realm of Flame Heaven won’t be the only ones to take part in the trial. Foreign cultivators of the three Heaven stages will also enter it through the two other Heaven Gates in the other nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars.

“In there, you may get to see wonders that have never seen before. You may see relics from the ancient wars, or glimpse enlightenment that ancient Qi warriors drew from heaven and earth. There may be secret scripts of the alien clans carved on the mountains or in the lakes. You may even come across Spirit Channeling grade precious treasures that are comparable to the Flame Dragon Armor.

“The other purpose of me seeing you this time is to inform you that the Heaven Gate is going to open up soon, so that you can pass on the news to your master in order for more people to know.

“Furthermore, I want you to do all you can to fight for an opportunity to enter the Heaven Gate.

“In that heaven and earth, you may possibly get to know the real you, and learn about the secrets you carry.”

Hua Mu only said how miraculous the Heaven Gate was, but not the reason why it existed. It seemed that even he didn’t know why the Heaven Gates appeared in the Domain of the Falling Stars.

After voicing the actual reason behind the Hell sect, Blood sect, and Ghost sect waging such a large-scale war, and expressing his wish for Nie Tian to inform Wu Ji as soon as possible and find a way to enter the Heaven Gate himself, Hua Mu quietly left before daybreak.

No one in the Nie clan saw him meeting with Nie Tian, much less knew anything about what he had said to him.

Chapter 126: Reign of Terror

The next day...

After obtaining the Spiritfount Pill, Nie Donghai didn't waste even a second before practicing and refining with it, in an attempt to regather his spiritual sea.

He temporarily cast all the issues within the Nie clan out of his mind, and even forgot about the issue of the Cloudsoaring sect being surrounded by powerful experts from the Hell sect.

The Master of the An clan, An Rong, learned about the world-shaking changes that had occurred to the Spiritual Treasure sect from An Shiyi. He spent the entire night talking to the An sisters regarding the unceasing turbulence it might bring to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

When Nie Tian saw him in the next morning, he saw his long face and worried frown, which made him seem as if he had suddenly aged.

Originally, Pan Tao had rushed to Black Cloud City bearing the hope of asking the Cloudsoaring sect to send out troops to his sect's aid. However, after learning that the Cloudsoaring sect was besieged by the Hell sect, his expression also sank, and the smiles that used to fill his face could no longer be seen.

Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo also seemed to have worries weighing on their minds. Their worries were for the near but

unreachable Cloudsoaring sect.

Nie Tian saw a dark haze clouding everyone's faces, and understood why they were so troubled.

“Hey... have you ever heard of the Heaven Gates?” he asked.

“What Heaven Gates?”

Everyone shook their heads, indicating that they knew nothing of them.

“That's odd...” Nie Tian was surprised by their response and explained to them, “It's a gate that only Qi Warriors of the Lesser Heaven, Heaven, and Greater Heaven stages can enter. Every so often, after many years have passed, three Heaven Gates will appear within the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars. It's said on the other side is a dimension only cultivators of the three Heaven stages are able to explore and gain experience from. How do you not know about it?”

Everyone shook their head again and told him that they had never heard of such a place.

Nie Qian asked with a puzzled expression, “Little Tian, why would you suddenly mention that?”

“Well...” Nie Tian deliberated over his choice of words for a while before saying, “I've obtained information that a Heaven Gate

will soon appear near the Hell sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

However, since they knew nothing of the Heaven Gate, it seemed that none of them showed any interest in it.

Instead, they were curious about how Nie Tian had obtained the information.

“I got the message from the command medallion that my master gave me.” After cooking up an excuse, Nie Tian explained in detail the special features of the Heaven Gate, the fantastic world that the Heaven Gate led to, the various types of ancient mysteries, the secret scripts of the alien clans, the knowledge ancient Qi warriors had collected, the various precious materials, and Spirit Channeling items.

Upon learning that the information was supposedly from Wu Ji, everyone was surprised inwardly. After hearing about the various wonders within the Heaven Gate, everyone’s eyes glittered with strange light.

After that, Nie Tian told them about how the Hell sect, Ghost Sect, and Blood Sect were the first to obtain the information regarding the Heaven Gate, which led them to launch such a sudden attack towards the Spiritual Treasure sect in an attempt to weaken their strength, so that they wouldn’t be able to fight for the opportunities to enter the Heaven Gate.

An Rong was dumbstruck. “Is the Heaven Gate is so important and magical?! Even experts from the other realms secretly colluded

with the Hell sect, Ghost sect, and Blood sect for a chance to arrange for their people to enter the Heaven Gate?”

“My master said that he wanted for everyone to spread the word.” Nie Tian borrowed Wu Ji’s name to spread the news.

“With your master’s abilities and influence, he only needs to say a word for everyone in all the lands to know about it. Why does he bother to pass the word through you?” Pan Tao found it hard to understand.

“Well...” Nie Tian frowned. “He can’t do that now.”

Pan Tao searched in his head for while. Shortly after, he seemed to have thought it through and said, “Oh, I know. It’s probably that the two Profound realm experts of the Hell sect are keeping your master busy, and preventing your master from leaving the Cloudsoaring sect! It’s because of them that your master can’t tell everyone himself, and thus can only inform you of it through your command medallion.”

“That’s probably the case.” Nie Tian echoed his words.

“I’ll return to the An clan and inform everyone and all those who are related to my clan.” An Rong sounded resolute and decisive. Then he turned around and instructed An Shiyi, “Shiyi, you go to the Spiritual Treasure Pavilion in Black Cloud City and tell them to find a secretive way to notify the Spiritual Treasure sect divisions in other cities about the invasion of the Spiritual Treasure sect, as well as the issue of the Heaven Gate.”

An Shiyi nodded. “Okay!”

Soon, An Rong and the An sisters hurriedly left the Nie clan.

Jiang Lingzhu still hadn’t recovered from the shock after hearing the overwhelming secret issues of the Heaven Gate. She was now discussing with Ye Gumo about how they should pass the information on to the Cloudsoaring sect.

Pan Tao was also still caught in astonishment.

After a while, Pan Tao sprung to his feet. “I’ll go to the Yun clan and let them know about the enormous changes that occurred to the Spiritual Treasure sect as well as the issue of the Heaven Gate, and I’ll ask them to inform the Grayvale sect as soon as possible!” With these words, he headed straight towards the Yun clan.

At that moment, Nie Tian could do nothing to stop the upheaval ravaging through the Spiritual Treasure sect, or break the Hell sect’s siege of the Cloudsoaring sect.

He felt that the only way to help them was to do as Hua Mu had asked of him and quickly spread the information of the imminent opening of the Heaven Gate, thereby revealing the real reason behind their invasion of the Spiritual Treasure sect, and allowing the Cloudsoaring sect, the Grayvale sect, and the Mystic Mist sect to make preparations to deal with the upcoming, greater turbulence.

He didn't go anywhere in the next two days, and only stayed within Black Cloud City, waiting for news.

In the Grayvale sect...

Numerous Qi warriors, who were wearing gray and white robes, were gathered within a dusky valley. The low cawing of birds could be heard here and there, as if they were waiting for orders to be passed down.

Powerful Qi warriors from the Grayvale sect weren't the only ones filling the valley. Many experts from the Mystic Mist sect were also gathered there.

The master of the Grayvale sect, Lu Ce, as well as the master of the Mystic Mist sect, Chu Siyun, were standing side by side.

Behind them were more than ten third grade and fourth grade bird-type spirit beasts. Although the rank of those spirit beasts weren't as high as the Thunder Beast, they were still more than capable of soaring through the sky.

Up till today, they had already grasped the knowledge regarding the enormous changes that occurred to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range and the Hell sect besieging the Cloudsoaring sect via many channels.

Since the Cloudsoaring sect, who was the closest to the Scarlet

Flame Mountain Range, was unable to come to the Spiritual Treasure sect's aid, they were now prepared to charge to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range at the fastest speed possible.

The reason why the Grayvale sect and the Mystic Mist sect struck back so quickly was not only due to the fact that they had sworn a blood oath with the Spiritual Treasure sect to become allies, but also because many of their fellow sectmembers had participated in the Treasure Convention.

Therefore, they absolutely couldn't tolerate the Ghost sect and the Blood sect running amok.

When they learned that the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range had already been turned into a sea of lava, they mobilized all their forces to gather up a troop of more than ten bird-type spirit beasts, so that they could rush over to help out their ally at the first possible moment.

Just as they had everything prepared and were about to set off, a young man in charge of gathering intelligence for the Grayvale sect rushed forward and hastily reported, "Just a moment, master! I've just received a message from the Yun clan of Black Cloud City!"

Lu Ce frowned. "What is it?"

"The Yun clan said that Wu Ji's disciple, that youngster called Nie Tian, delivered them a message from his master." The young man had a solemn and respectful expression as he continued, "He said that one of the three Heaven Gates is about to open up

somewhere near the Hell sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven. The Hell sect had obtained the information earlier. That was why the Ghost sect and the Blood sect invaded the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“He also said that experts from other realms have already reached an agreement with the Hell sect, the Ghost sect, and the Blood sect, which will allow those foreign clans to send a few Qi warriors in the three Heavens stages to enter the Heaven Gate that will show up in the Hell sect’s turf.”

“...”

He rapidly explained everything to Lu Ce and Chu Siyun.

“The Heaven Gate!”

Lu Ce’s and Chu Siyun’s expression flickered upon hearing him mention the Heaven Gate.

After the young man had explained every detail, Lu Ce’s and Chu Siyun’s bodies slightly trembled, as if they had been shocked to their very soul.

Jiang Lingzhu, Pan Tao, and the others didn’t know about the origin of the Heaven Gate and its secrets because they were too young and their cultivation bases were too low.

Their elders didn’t expect that a Heaven Gate would open within the Realm of Flame Heaven in decades. Thus, they didn’t explain it

to them.

However, Lu Ce, as master of the Grayvale sect, and Chu Siyun, the master of the Mystic Mist sect, surely knew about it.

“The Heaven Gate! So it’s all because of the Heaven Gate!” Lu Ce took a deep breath and, heated with rage, he said, “No wonder the Blood sect and the Ghost sect would risk starting a full-frontal internal war within the Realm of Flame Heaven and launch the sudden invasion of the Spiritual Treasure sect! The Heaven Gate! It’s all because a Heaven Gate will open up in the Realm of Flame Heaven! They’re clearing the barriers so that more of their disciples will have the chance to enter the Heaven Gate!”

Chu Siyun from the Mystic Mist sect pondered for awhile and prompted a suggestion, “Even if we can hurry over to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, it might already be too late, and our efforts will be in vain. On the other hand, the Hell sect only deployed forces to seal the Cloudsoaring sect, but didn’t start a massacre. So there’s also no need for us to reinforce them.

“In my opinion, since our opponents have moved out to attack our allies, and the Heaven Gate is going to open near the Hell sect, why don’t we...

“Why don’t we directly attack the Hell sect’s base!”

Lu Ce’s eyes lit up as he replied, “Good idea! If we take the chance to attack the Hell sect when their powerful experts are deployed to the Cloudsoaring sect, we can definitely inflict heavy damage to

them! In this way, not only can we weaken the Hell sect's strength, but we can also cause the Ghost sect and the Blood sect to worry about their own bases! By doing that, we'll be able to help relieve the Cloudsoaring sect and the Spiritual Treasure sect of the pressure from their respective opponents!"

"Then it's settled!" Chu Siyun said loudly and with determination.

"Compared to the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, the Hell sect is even closer to us!" Lu Ce's voice was full of ferociousness. "All sect members that are at the Greater Heaven stage or higher, immediately depart for the Hell sect! As long as you come across someone from the Hell sect, kill on sight! Since a Heaven Gate is opening in our realm, blood will flow like a river in the Realm of Flame Heaven, whether we like it or not!"

"The same goes for the disciples of the Mystic Mist sect!" Chu Siyun also gave his command.

Under the command of the two people, the strong Qi Warriors from the Grayvale sect and the Mystic Mist sect replied by filling the sky with angry roars, before they marched towards the Hell sect at a rapid pace.

Chapter 127: The Endless Road of Cultivation

Black Cloud City, the Nie clan.

After asking the An clan, Pan Tao, Jiang Lingzhu, and the others to spread the news that one of the Heaven Gates was about to appear in the Hell sect, Nie Tian went back to his room and started cultivating whole-heartedly.

He had been making preparations for stepping into the Heaven Gate.

Ever since he learned from Hua Mu that one of the Heaven Gates would open up somewhere near the Hell sect, and that Qi warriors of the Lesser Heaven, Heaven, and Greater Heaven stages from many sects would be able to enter it together, he had been secretly readying himself psychologically.

Cultivators of the Realm of Flame Heaven weren't the only ones that would step into that miraculous heaven and earth; powerful competitors from other realms would go through the other two Heaven Gates and also participate in the trial.

However, he was only in the early Lesser Heaven stage, the weakest among the three Heaven stages. If he entered the unknown dimension with his current cultivation base, he would be like a lamb in the middle of a pack of wolves.

Therefore, he needed to improve his strength as much and as fast as possible.

Sitting cross-legged in the middle of his stone room, he used the Qi Refining Incantation and a spirit stone to take in the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, trying to sense even the most trivial changes to his spiritual sea.

Inside his misty spiritual sea, the vortex of spiritual power was turning slowly, unceasingly attracting and refining the misty spiritual energy scattered within his spiritual sea.

He gathered his attention and examined the vortex with his soul. He found that after a round of refinement, the spiritual energy that had been pulled into the vortex of spiritual power seemed to have become even purer and richer.

The newly refined spiritual energy flowed to the edge of the spiritual sea and formed a circular ribbon of thick, white mist.

With a closer examination, he discovered that the spiritual energy was exceptionally condensed and vigorous, and the power it contained was rather formidable.

On the other hand, the spiritual energy that hadn't been refined was also scattered around in the spiritual sea, but it was much thinner and carried much less power.

Having learned the movements within his spiritual sea and the

process of how the vortex of spiritual power refined the spiritual energy, he gained a better understanding of cultivation at the Lesser Heaven stage.

After stepping into the Lesser Heaven stage, due to the formation of the vortex of spiritual power, the speed of gathering the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth had become many times faster than in the Qi Refining stage.

The gathered spiritual energy would initially be attracted into the vortex of spiritual power. Then, the vortex of spiritual power would refine the energy, making it purer.

After refinement, the pure spiritual energy would disperse to the edge of the spiritual sea, forming ring of dense mist.

In the Lesser Heaven stage, a cultivator's spiritual sea wouldn't expand at all, but instead, the spiritual energy within his or her spiritual sea would undergo round after round of refinement.

The refined spiritual energy would flow to the furthest edge of the spiritual sea, forming circle after circle of condensed mist, gradually surging and pressing toward the center.

Throughout the refining process, the vortex of spiritual power would also continuously attract spiritual energy from the outside world, and merge it with the spiritual energy scattered within the spiritual sea.

He found that the unceasingly rotating vortex of spiritual power seemed like a well within his spiritual sea, which constantly gathered faint spiritual energy from the surroundings and purified it time after time.

After multiple rounds of refining, the exceptionally rich and condensed spiritual energy would sink to the bottom of the “well”, before soon showing up on the edge of the spiritual sea again.

By condensing at the edge of the spiritual sea, the circular ribbon of refined spiritual energy would press the relatively sparse spiritual energy toward the “mouth of the well”, so that it would undergo a new round of refinement.

It was a unceasing cycle.

Having recently entered the Lesser Heaven stage, Nie Tian hadn't finished his first cycle yet.

After a period of concentrated practice, he had only managed to form one ring of pure spiritual energy at the farthest edge of his spiritual sea.

He still had a long road ahead before he could complete the first refining cycle of his spiritual sea.

According to his calculations, if he continued to cultivate with spirit stones, he would probably still need half a year to finish his first refining cycle.

And that was the speed he could only reach with the help from spirit stones.

In case there weren't a steady supply of spirit stones, and he merely relied on the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, he would very likely need to spend three to five years to complete the first refining cycle of all the faint spiritual energy scattered in his spiritual sea.

Moreover, in order to step from the early-stage into the middle-stage of Lesser Heaven, he might need to go through more than one complete cycle of refinement.

His eyes snapped open. Staring off into the pitch-black night sky, he couldn't help but let out a sigh. "This is such a consuming process."

He had long since heard that the Qi Refining stage was merely the foundation, and only by entering the Lesser Heaven stage, one would be considered as a beginner Qi warrior.

The difficulty of every breakthrough of the cultivation base after stepping into the Lesser Heaven stage would far exceed that of the breakthroughs within the Qi Refining stage.

Before, he didn't have a deep understanding of it. Now that he had advanced to the Lesser Heaven stage, and understood the miraculous refining process within his spiritual sea, he finally truly realized the hardships lying in front of him.

“Even if I take advantage of the spirit stones that my master has given me, and practice day and night, I’ll still need at least half a year to finish one cycle of refining the spiritual energy in my spiritual sea.

“Furthermore, one cycle is probably far from enough. I’ll have to keep practicing and practicing.

“It might take years to finish several cycles, and by that time... I would only be able to reach the threshold of the next breakthrough...

“In order to make the breakthrough, I’ll need to be in the right mental state, and come across proper enlightenment.

“From the look of it, I’ve only made the first step in my endless cultivation path.”

Numerous, mixed emotions rose in Nie Tian’s heart.

Aside from practicing cultivation, a Qi warrior also needed to learn and practice spiritual incantations, try to comprehend the profundity of the incantations, pick the right spiritual tool, and try to resonate with it.

Due to their unique talents or interest, some Qi warriors chose to spend a large amount of time studying equipment forging methods, or trying to fathom profound magical symbols and spell

formations.

Each and every one of the ways to improve a Qi warrior's strength was time consuming, and required intense study.

On the other hand, the lifespan of a Qi warrior wasn't limitless, and would only increase as his or her cultivation base rose.

Many Qi warriors failed to break through into the next cultivation level before their lifespan ran out, and therefore passed away.

He had the feeling that his master Wu Ji was currently facing such a thorny problem.

Staring off into the moonless, dark sky, Nie Tian made his resolution. "Only by cultivating at a high speed and advancing rapidly will I be able to constantly increase my lifespan and thus continue with my cultivation."

He was determined to enter the Heaven Gate and train himself in the bloody trial, even though he couldn't change his inferior cultivation base in the near future.

Suddenly, a tiny flaming spot appeared in the pitch-black night sky. It seemed to be in the deepest part of the vast void, and was very dim at first, but became increasingly clear as time went by.

"It's a moonless and starless night. How come there's a spot of

fiery light in the sky?” Curious, he looked even harder into the night sky.

Before long, more and more flaming spots appeared in the dark sky, one after another.

For some unknown reason, looking at the increasing number of bright spots, the sense of an imminent big event rose in his heart.

Moments later, a corner of the sky had already been filled with countless fiery spots, every one of which was bright and dazzling, dragging their colorful tails, and dashing crossing the pitch-black sky.

“Falling stars!” Jiang Lingzhu’s voice echoed out from a nearby stone pavilion.

Stepping onto the balcony, Nie Tian saw Jiang Lingzhu and Ye Gumo standing by their window. It seemed they were also attracted by the unusual scene in the sky, with their gazes fixed on those falling stars.

Soon, the falling stars grew increasingly clear.

Hundreds of falling stars, trailing with flaming tails of different colors, seemed increasingly splendid and gorgeous, and gradually caught everyone’s attention!

Lots of children and juniors of the Nie clan couldn’t stop cheering

with their faces filled with excitement. “Meteor shower! It’s a meteor shower!”

“Something is wrong...” Staring at the increasingly clear and dazzling falling stars, Nie Tian’s face turned grim, as if he knew something terrible was about to happen.

All those stars didn’t flash across the sky. Instead, it seemed that their target was the Realm of Flame Heaven where everyone was standing!

All of a sudden, he remembered something Hua Mu had said to him right before he left: “When it’s time for the Heaven Gate to open, omens will present themselves in the sky!”

The thought made him nervous. He was almost certain that the falling stars had been caused by the Heaven Gate!

“Is it really the Heaven Gate that has caused this unusual change?”

Only an hour later, thousands of multicolored, dazzling falling stars seemed to be almost at their fingertips.

The originally densely-packed falling stars seemed to be suddenly influenced by some kind of unknown magnetic field, and splashed out in every direction, plummeting towards every corner of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

About ten of them blasted their way towards the Cloudsoaring sect and Black Cloud City.

One after another, the elders of the Nie clan became alarmed. The streets within Black Cloud City were also gradually filled with nervous people, all of whom looked up at the sky with terror in their eyes.

“What’s happening?”

“Oh my god! Meteors are falling in our direction!”

“Dear lord! How can it be?”

As of this moment, not only everyone in the Cloudsoaring sect, Black Cloud City, and the other nearby cities, but also the powerful experts that had been besieging the Cloudsoaring Mountain, started to look up to the heavens, trembling with fear.

The Realm of Flame Heaven was a part of the Domain of the Falling Stars, where, just as its name implied, meteors streaked across the sky from time to time.

However, those falling stars had always flashed across the sky and disappeared in seconds, with very few of them actually landing on land they lived on.

But tonight, it seemed that the meteor shower that had abruptly appeared in the sky had specially targeted the Realm of Flame

Heaven!

RUUUUUMBLE!

The ground suddenly trembled. Apparently, some meteor had already crashed into the earth in the ice-cold wilderness outside of Black Cloud City, which gave birth to a terrifying blast that shook the entirety of Black Cloud City.

Jiang Lingzhu shrieked, “Cloudsoaring Mountain!”

Nie Tian looked over with rapt attention, and saw that a few flaming meteors, trailing by multicolored blazing tails like pouring waterfalls, had crashed into the Cloudsoaring Mountain.

RUUUUUMBLE! RUUUUUUUMMMMMBLLLLLE!

In the adjacent Black Cloud City, loud rumbling sounds kept coming from every direction, and the ground wouldn’t stop from shaking. Many commoners couldn’t withstand the shock wave and were killed as they slept.

Even Nie Tian felt his Qi and blood rushing to his head, causing him to experience dizziness.

He immediately channeled his spiritual power to shield himself while gritting his teeth, staring at the bright sky.

SHEW!

A meteor emanating orange flames suddenly grew incredibly huge in Nie Tian's sight, hurtling towards Black Cloud City.

BOOM!

Seconds later, it crashed into the Yun clan, sending out devastating blast waves in Black Cloud City. Almost simultaneously, the desperate wails of commoners rang out here and there within the city.

RUUUUMBLE!

Half of the stone pavilions in the Nie clan collapsed due to the strong blast, including the one Nie Tian was in.

Fortunately, he had been alert and jumped out of it the moment before it was reduced to a pile of debris.

Standing on the cracked stone ground, he saw Jiang Lingzhu, Ye Gumo, Pan Tao, and others running towards him with their faces full of fear.

He could hear miserable wails coming from every corner of the Nie clan.

Meanwhile, outside of the Nie clan, cries had filled every inch of

Black Cloud City.

Chapter 128: Meteors that Descended from the Heavens!

Wailing filled Black Cloud City...

The descent of the meteor caused the all the stone buildings within the city to shake violently, many of which even collapsed.

Numerous less healthy mortals were hit by the terrifying blast wave in their sleep, causing them to cough up blood and die instantly.

RUUUUMBLE!

Enormous collision sounds were still resounding from the nearby Cloudsoaring Mountain and the earth was still shaking.

All the surviving commoners within Black Cloud City rushed out into the streets and cried out loudly.

On the other hand, even the youngest children of the Nie clan survived the blast wave because they had been cultivating from very early ages and their spirit power had been protecting their bodies.

However, there were still a few aged clansmen who weren't able to escape in time when the buildings collapsed. They were crushed to death and buried under the debris.

Face cold like deep ocean water, Nie Tian stood on the cracked stone floor as he heard the cries of his clansmen.

Now, he was a hundred percent certain that the rain of flaming meteors that descended from the sky was definitely because of the appearance of the Heaven Gate.

Who would have thought that the opening of the Heaven Gate would actually bring such a calamity to the Realm of Flame Heaven?

Black Cloud City and Cloudsoaring Mountain were both in a state of devastation, and the surrounding cities might have also suffered from the strikes of the rain of meteors.

He noticed that right before the meteors crashed into the land, they had spread out and headed towards the Blood sect, the Ghost sect, the Hell sect, as well as the Spiritual Treasure sect, the Mystic Mist sect, and the Grayvale sect.

He believed that cities like Black Cloud City weren't the only places that had been devastated. Even mountainous areas that had many living creatures gathered in them also had been bombarded by the meteors.

A large number of people clamored in the streets outside the Nie clan, each and every one of them in a doomsday-like panic.

“The Yun clan! The Yun clan is done for!”

“A meteor crashed right into the Yun clan! The terrifying force is more than enough to eliminate the Yun clan!”

“Are the heavens punishing us?”

Panic spread rather rapidly. Like madly growing weeds, it gave rise to a feeling of despair that made people believe there was absolutely no chance of surviving such a disastrous act of the heavens.

“Why is this happening? Why is it like this?” Jiang Lingzhu was like a duck in a thunderstorm.

“Father! Are you ok?”

It was also at that moment Nie Tian heard Nie Qian’s cries. He turned his head to discover that his grandfather, Nie Donghai, was walking out of a pile of debris with disheveled hair and a dirty face.

Bedraggled as he looked, Nie Donghai’s eyes were shining with a vigorous light.

“I’m fine.” He shook his head, while some lingering fear could still be seen on his face. “Luckily, I finished refining the Spiritfount Pill and rebuilding my spiritual sea in time. Were it not for the reestablishment of my spiritual sea, which allowed me to use my spiritual power to protect myself, I...might not have

escaped.”

Nie Qian seemed overjoyed. “You’ve fully healed your spiritual sea, father?”

A trace of happiness appeared on Nie Donghai’s face. “Yes, I have.” Then, he looked up towards the sky, and noticed that there were no longer flaming meteors flying across the night sky.

He tried his best to calm himself and said, “Let’s go take a look in the Yun clan.”

“Let’s go!” Pan Tao said urgently. “Let’s see how the Yun clan is doing after being hit by that giant meteor.”

“Congratulations, grandpa.” Nie Tian sincerely congratulated him.

Nie Donghai cracked a soft smile as he said, “It’s all thanks to that Spiritfount Pill.”

At that time, Nie Tian noticed that the frightening earthquakes and shockwaves that had been caused by the collisions were all gone.

As for the casualties of the Nie clan... he actually didn’t care very much.

Ever since he was a child, he didn't feel a strong sense of belonging towards the Nie clan. As long as Nie Donghai and Nie Qian were left unscathed, the deaths of others within the Nie clan wouldn't devastate him.

Soon after, the crowd walked out of the Nie clan under the lead of Nie Donghai.

By the time they arrived in the streets, where people were rushing through hurriedly, Nie Tian surveyed his surroundings, and noticed that a large number of buildings had collapsed due to the tremors. Even more terrifyingly, an enormous, long rift had been torn open in the sturdy stone floor.

Many civilians of Black Cloud City were standing in the streets, letting out miserable wails. Beside them were the corpses that they had dragged out from under their collapsed homes.

There were also many people who had clearly been hit by the rocks that shot out when mansions collapsed, their chests covered in bloodstains.

“Master Nie, do you know what happened? Why did meteorites suddenly descend from the sky? What did we do to anger the heavens and make them want to punish us like this?”

Along their way, many grieving civilians saw Nie Donghai and thus approached to question him with their faces full of tears.

Nie Donghai sighed deeply. Unable to give a proper explanation, he could only keep on walking without saying a word.

After a long time, everyone arrived in front of the Yun clan under his lead.

“Nie Tian, you are here too?” An Shiyi, An Yin, as well as An Rong, An He, and the other members of the An clan were already gathered in front of the Yun clan.

Seeing them come over, An Shiyi heaved a sigh of relief and said, “It’s good that nothing’s happened to you.” Clearly, she was talking to Nie Tian and Nie Tian alone.

Seeing that the An sisters had come out safe and sound, Nie Tian also put his heart at ease and asked, “Why didn’t you go inside?”

“We’re waiting for the aftershocks to end, and also waiting to see... if any survivors will walk out of there.” An Shiyi sighed softly and continued, “However, up till now, there hasn’t been a single member of the Yun clan that has walked out. The place where the meteorite landed ought to have suffered the most violent blast waves. Let alone the Yun clan, even the ones who lived near the Yun clan couldn’t take the strong blast waves and died.”

Only after hearing her words did Nie Tian notice that there... seemed to be no earth-shaking cries echoing out from anywhere near the Yun clan.

Through the broken main gate of the Yun clan, he could only see an ash-brown meteor, which had smashed open an enormous crater in the ground, and almost took up the entire Yun clan's property.

All of the buildings in the entire Yun clan had been smashed deep into the ground by the meteor. Not a single one had survived.

The Yun clan seemed to have annihilated from Black Cloud City in a flash.

The ash-brown meteor was now the only thing remaining in the land of the Yun clan, with tiny fiery sparks flickering on its surface from time to time.

As a matter of fact, the reason why the An clansmen beat others to the Yun clan, but didn't dare to go inside, was that they were worried that those fiery sparks were dangerous, and thus were waiting for those fiery lights to extinguish.

"No one from the Yun clan survived?" Nie Qian asked with a soft voice.

An Shiyi thought for a moment and looked deeply at her as she said, "I don't think anyone in there could have survived, including the Yun clan's clanmaster Yun Meng.

"Yun Meng also died?" A complicated expression appeared on Nie Donghai's face as he said begrudgingly, "I finally rebuilt my

spiritual sea, and I was planning to straighten things out with him. Who could have thought that... he'd suddenly die like this!"

"I'll go take a look inside." Before anyone could dissuade him, Nie Tian had already made his way through the Yun clan's broken gate.

As soon as he entered, he had a clear view of the whole thing. The entire Yun clan had been smashed in and swallowed by an immense crater and the enormous meteor in it.

There were many sparks of fire flickering on the surface of the ash-brown meteor, which seemed to be slowly swimming towards a mutual destination.

As they glided, the sparks of fire left faint trails on the surface of the meteor, which... were full of twists and turns, as if they contained some kind of unknown wonder within.

"Be careful, Nie Tian!"

An Shiyi, Nie Donghai, and Nie Qian loudly warned him.

Because, at that moment, the reckless Nie Tian had actually climbed onto the meteor to pursue a moving spark of fire. Both of them were headed towards the top of the meteor.

One after another, they charged into the Yun clan and stopped in front of the meteor. With anxious expressions on their faces, they

constantly warned Nie Tian not to act rashly.

Meanwhile, Nie Tian sensed that the ash-brown meteor actually wasn't dangerous at all, other than the fact that its surface was quite hot. Thus, he ignored their warnings and continued to do what his heart told him.

Quickly, Nie Tian had pursued the spark of fire to the top of the meteor.

There were even more sparks of fire gathered there, which had converged into a mysterious pattern.

The pattern looked like a half opened gate that was unceasingly letting those sparks of fire inside.

As the numerous sparks of fire that had scattered all around the meteor gradually gathered and merged into the pattern, the pattern grew brighter and brighter, and at the same time, the gate-shaped pattern slowly opened further from its half opened state...

“A gate?” Nie Tian's expression flickered as he immediately crouched down to observe it with rapt attention.

“Can this pattern have something to do with the Heaven Gate? Is it here because of the Heaven Gate?” He speculated deeply.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

While he was pondering, even more sparks of fire merged into that pattern, making the pattern even brighter!

Shortly after, while staring at the mysterious pattern, Nie Tian discovered that every last one of the fiery sparks that had scattered all over the meteor had already merged into the pattern.

The light that the gate-shaped pattern emanated had become increasingly harsh and blinding, while a gentle power spread out from within the pattern.

Subconsciously, Nie Tian extended his hand to touch it.

The moment his left hand touched the pattern, it exploded, sending countless flickering sparks of fire flying into his palm like a rainstorm.

Simultaneously, a numbing and scorching feeling spread out to his whole arm as he suddenly discovered that a patterned tattoo had appeared on the back of his left hand.

It was none other than the gate-shaped pattern that he had just touched!

At the same time, the pattern on the meteor disappeared.

“This must be the key to enter the Heaven Gate!” Elated, Nie

Tian exclaimed.

Chapter 129: Snatching the Eligibility!

Right after the gate-shaped pattern appeared on the back of Nie Tian's left hand, the same pattern that had been engraved on the meteor disappeared without leaving a single trace.

Then the burning hot meteor rapidly turned ice-cold.

Under the night sky, Nie Tian's eyebrows were knitted together. He looked at the pattern on the back of his hand and muttered, "This is a key to the Heaven Gate...?"

Hua Mu had only told him that the Heaven Gate was about to appear in the Realm of Flame Heaven, but never explained to him that it would require a key to enter.

Nonetheless, when the gate-shaped pattern shifted from the meteor to the back of his hand in the form of a tattoo, he realized that the gate-shaped pattern was precisely the special pass needed for cultivators to step into the Heaven Gate.

He sent out a wisp of his psychic awareness to examine the gate-shaped pattern, but it was pushed back by a gentle yet formidable force.

Therefore, he failed to pry into the profound mysteries that lay within.

"Every Heaven Gate only allows one hundred participants to

enter,” he thought to himself. “Does everyone have to obtain a key like this to enter?”

There could have been as many as a thousand meteors that had fallen from the sky and landed in different parts of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

However, there should only be a hundred keys, which meant that among the thousand meteors, only ten percent of them carried keys.

If someone wanted to step into the Heaven Gate, they would need to find a meteor that carried a key and absorb the key into their own body just like he did.

He thought it through and had a plan for their next move.

“Nie Tian!” At that moment, upon seeing him unscathed after hopping onto the meteor, everyone slowly gathered towards him, under the leadership of Nie Donghai and An Shiyi.

All they had seen was that Nie Tian had crouched down at the place where the fiery sparks were gathered for a while before all of them suddenly disappeared.

None of them knew what had happened.

“This meteor is from outside of the realm, and it carried a key to the Heaven Gate.” Nie Tian did not hold anything back. He showed

the mysterious gate-shaped pattern on the back of his hand to everyone. After that, he said with a serious expression on his face, “I’m positive that when the Heaven Gate opens, only people who have similar patterns on their hands will be able to participate in the trial.

“Whoever wants to enter the Heaven Gate will need to find a key from one of the falling meteors and absorb it onto their hand!”

Upon hearing these words, everyone present was deeply moved, each and every one of their eyes glittering with unusual light.

At the same time, all of them cast their gaze towards the direction of the Cloudsoaring sect.

They saw that a large number of the meteors had fallen towards Cloudsoaring Mountain and its adjacent areas. Thus, it obviously contained the most meteors in the area.

“Don’t even think about it,” Nie Tian shook his head and said, “Experts from both the Hell sect and the Cloudsoaring sect are gathered there, so it’s impossible for you to obtain keys from the meteors over there.

“I saw that some meteors had fallen into the ice-cold wasteland near Black Cloud City. That is the place where your hope resides.”

“He’s right,” Pan Tao nodded his head as he said decisively, “Time is of the essence here! Presumably, others haven’t figured

out about the secret that lies in the outer-realm meteors yet, and therefore don't know that they carry the keys to the Heaven Gate! We need to hurry and rush to the ice-cold wasteland as soon as possible and hope that we are lucky enough to find keys to absorb."

Right after uttering these words, he hurriedly thanked Nie Tian and left.

After a brief hesitation, the An sisters, Ye Gumo, and Jiang Lingzhu also followed Pan Tao out of Black Cloud City at the fastest speed possible.

They all harbored the strong desire to gain the eligibility to enter the Heaven Gate!

Having obtained the eligibility himself, Nie Tian stood on top of the meteor, which was no longer unusual, and looked off towards the distant Cloudsoaring Mountain. He said, "I'm afraid that intense battles may have already broken out over there."

Prior to the descent of the meteors, the Hell sect had only surrounded Cloudsoaring Mountain, preventing experts of the Cloudsoaring Sect from rushing to the Spiritual Treasure sect's aid.

Hence, both sides had been in a stalemate. No battles had broken out.

However, the meteors that had fallen from the sky would very

likely immediately trigger large-scale, bloody battles in that area.

It wouldn't matter whether they were Qi warriors from the Cloudsoaring sect or the Hell sect. As long as they were in the three Heaven stages, they would fight tooth and nail over the meteors that carried the keys, in an attempt to acquire the eligibility to step into the Heaven Gate.

...

Meanwhile, on Cloudsoaring Mountain...

With an ashen face, Jiang Zhisu looked at the grand Streamcloud Sky Soaring spell formation, which was now riddled with gaping wounds.

The Streamcloud Sky Soaring spell formation had been formed by a sea of clouds. When the meteors fell from outer realm (a similar concept to outer space), they had penetrated the formation, leaving quite a few holes in it.

In the river valley within Cloudsoaring Mountain, there lay about ten huge craters that went deep into the earth. The blast caused by the huge collisions shattered the nearby rocks into pieces.

Originally, the Cloudsoaring sect had relied on the grand Streamcloud Sky Soaring spell formation to hold off the experts from the Hell sect.

Now that the enormous spell formation that had been protecting the sect had been punctured by the meteors, the Hell sect experts who had been besieging the Cloudsoaring sect were able to swarm in.

Jiang Zhisu saw that numerous Hell sect experts had already stepped into the Cloudsoaring sect through the openings.

However, they didn't immediately start a war after entering.

On the contrary, as their first act, all of the Hell sect experts rushed to the meteors that were still flickering with tiny bits of flame in the river valley. It seemed as if they were collecting something with their faces filled with excitement.

“Get down there and take a look!” Jiang Zhisu ordered.

Immediately after, many of the Qi warriors from the Cloudsoaring sect whizzed down from the mountaintop.

The experts from Hell sect clearly knew about the opening of the Heaven Gate. When the meteors had descended from outside of the realm, and they saw the sparks of fire flickering on the meteors, they were able to make an informed guess regarding the secrets that lay within.

“They must carry keys to the Heaven Gate! I didn't expect the way to enter the Heaven Gate this time to be so much different

from before! According to that senior from the Realm of Earth Sieve, throughout the history, there has only been one time where eligibility was needed to enter.”

“Only those who had obtained the key would be allowed into the Heaven Gate!”

“I can’t believe that the Heaven Gate that will appear in the Realm of Flame Heaven this time is so special!”

“Hurry! Let’s snatch the keys before those from the Cloudsoaring sect realize what’s going on!”

As soon as they saw that the Cloudsoaring sect’s grand Streamcloud Sky Soaring spell formation was punctured, they didn’t waste a second before swarming in to search for the keys which would allow them to step into the Heaven Gate.

“Zhao Haifeng! Duan Yuan! Hu Qingwen!” A Hell sect expert shouted, pointing at three disciples from the Hell sect. He ordered, “The three of you go to Black Cloud City and the wasteland to the north of Black Cloud City immediately. I noticed that some meteors fell in that direction! You three aren’t strong enough to fight for keys in this place. You might as well rush over there and look for opportunities!”

They were three teenagers, who only seemed to be around fifteen-years-old, but had strong, murderous auras wreathing their body. Upon hearing that man’s order, they prepared to leave.

At the same time, the master of the Hell sect, Jiao Yang, who was as tall and sturdy as a mountain, suddenly made a harsh expression with his stone-cold face.

Jiao Yang's cultivation base had already reached the great circle of the late Worldly realm, and he was only one step away from advancing into the Profound realm.

There was an unwritten rule among every sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven. Once the masters of each of the sects had advanced into the Profound realm, they would give up on their position as master and step away from the earthly affairs to focus solely on their cultivation.

Under the management of Jiao Yang, who was known as the strongest person in the Realm of Flame Heaven, the Hell sect had entered an age of prosperity and thus was deemed as the number one sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Jiao Yang was aggressive and relentless, and was deeply respected by his subordinates and clansmen. Even the two Profound realm experts from the Ghost sect and Blood sect also thought highly of him, and believed that he would be able to advance to the Profound realm within the next ten years. By that time, the Hell sect would have another peak expert.

Among the seven major sects in the Realm of Flame Heaven, the Hell sect was the only sect that had two Profound realm experts. If they were to add in Jiao Yang as another Profound realm expert, the strength of Hell sect would only continue to rise above all of the other sects.

By that time, with five Profound realm experts on their side, the Blood sect, the Ghost sect, and the Hell sect would surely overtake the alliance formed by the Spiritual Treasure sect, the Cloudsoaring Sect, the Grayvale sect, and the Mystic Mist sect.

“The Mystic Mist sect and the Grayvale sect have joined hands and invaded our sect!?” Jiao Yang, who had just received the news, looked at the disciples that were rushing towards the meteors and shouted, “Get the keys to the Heaven Gate as quickly as possible, and then we’ll head back to our sect immediately!”

“Zhao Haifeng! You three must hurry too! You must also return to the sect immediately after getting the keys from Black Cloud City and the wasteland!”

“We won’t wait for you. If you waste too much time out there and get surrounded by powerful experts from the Cloudsoaring sect, don’t count on us to come rescue you.”

The three teenagers from Hell sect, who were about to rush towards Black Cloud City, responded loudly, “Understood!”

Then, at an incredibly fast speed, they dashed away.

Also at that moment, an expert from the Cloudsoaring sect, who had descended from the mountain, shouted loudly to Jiang Zhisu, “Sectmaster! The disciples from the Hell sect are collecting the fiery sparks on the meteors! Those fiery sparks seemed to have formed gate-shaped patterns on the back of their hands!” “

“Gate-shaped patterns?” Jiang Zhisu went blank for a while, and then suddenly said, “Snatch those patterns!”

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

In a split second, thread after thread of blurry shadows shot down from Cloudsoaring Mountain. Like shooting stars, they all rushed towards the meteors that had sparks of fire on them.

After a standoff of several days, Qi warriors from both the Cloudsoaring sect and the Hell sect instantly began fighting at close quarters over the keys to the Heaven Gate.

...

In Black Cloud City, the gate that led to Cloudsoaring Mountain had already been shattered into pieces by the strong blasts caused by the huge impacts of the meteors.

Considering a catastrophe had killed many of the loved ones of the guards, it was no surprise that they had long since left.

Upon seeing the meteor falling onto the Yun clan's property, the few guards from the Yun clan had rushed over.

Only the Nie clan guest elder Wu Tao, and two others from the An clan remained on top of the city gate.

Instead of checking on the situation out of the city gate, the three of them turned around and sighed as they looked at the wailing-filled Black Cloud City.

FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ!

Three pale-gray bone spears sped through the air. Before the three of them could react, they already pierced into their backs.

The other two had lower cultivation bases, and therefore died instantly.

Only Wu Tao sensed that something was wrong and protected the rear part of his heart with his spiritual power. Because of that, he was only severely injured, not killed.

Wu Tao's face seemed extremely pale as he turned around to look at Zhao Haifeng and the other two. "W-who are you?!"

Zhao Haifeng slightly frowned. "I can't believe you actually survived the first strike..."

With a wave of his left hand, the two bone spears, which had taken the lives of the two from the An clan, pierced towards Wu Tao's abdomen and side.

Wu Tao, who didn't have the strength to resist any more attacks,

was instantly pierced through by the bone spears. He took his last breath, and died.

Like a wind, Zhao Haifeng dashed forward. “Our sectmaster has ordered us to not waste our time here. Kill whoever dares to stand in our way.”

The three bone spears that had pierced Wu Tao retracted from his body and flew after Zhao Haifeng.

With nothing but indifference in their eyes, Duan Yuan and Hu Qingwen, who were also from Hell sect, followed Zhao Haifeng.

Chapter 130: Contempt Of The Hell Sect

As soon as the three of them stepped into Black Cloud City, Zhao Haifeng saw that the street was packed with people.

The collapse of the stone tower had sent many falling stones rolling into the street. Coupled with the wailing crowd, the originally wide street seemed to have become incomparably congested.

Their cultivation bases were still far from allowing them to soar through the sky, so it was difficult for the people in the crowd to move along.

PUFF! PUFF! PUFF!

The three bone spears that had been closely following Zhao Haifeng turned into three pale-gray lightning bolts that pierced through three of the crying mortals.

The momentum of the bone spears was so strong that the three mortals were brought into the air.

“Who’s there?”

All of the civilians of Black Cloud City were drowning in extreme grief. Upon seeing three of their people getting killed, their eyes immediately turned red.

Many of them madly lunged towards Zhao Haifeng.

“Mortals...” Zhao Haifeng knitted his brows and whispered. The three bone spears swiftly flew out again and pierced through each and every person who attempted to attack them.

The bloody massacre forced the civilians to rapidly quiet down. After examining the garments of the intruders, people began to shriek, “H-hell sect disciples!”

There was a lifelike pattern knitted on each of their chests, which resembled a roaring devil.

“Get out of our way.”

Zhao Haifeng’s face was cold and indifferent. With a wave of his left hand, the three bone spears that had never fallen onto the the ground once again whizzed forward.

The citizens of Black Cloud City, who were standing in the street ahead of them, were scared to death. They all pushed their way to the sides, fighting to create a clear path for the trio.

Zhao Haifeng briefly nodded his head and stopped his massacre, then led Duan Yuan and Hu Qingwen in the direction of the Yun clan.

Inside the Yun clan...

Nie Tian hopped off of the ice-cold meteor and joined Nie Donghai, An Rong, and the others at the main gate of the Yun clan.

A few members of the Yun clan dashed past Nie Tian and ran inside. They all lost control and cried out loud as they looked at the remains of the Yun clan within the huge crater created by the meteor.

“Where’s the clanmaster?”

“The Yun clan is gone?! This can’t be happening!”

They could not believe that the Yun clan, which had stood so steadily in Black Cloud City the day before, would have been reduced to nothing but ruins overnight.

They were all unable to accept the truth in front of their eyes.

“The Yun clan is gone just like that?” The master of the An clan, An Rong, let out a sigh and shook his head. Struck by mixed feelings, he said, “In front of such a catastrophe that fell right from the heavens, clans like ours won’t be able to survive. Only strong sects like the Cloudsoaring sect may be able to. The Yun clan has stood in Black Cloud City for a long time. Who would have thought that it would be wiped out by a catastrophe in an instant?”

Nie Donghai was also taken up by mixed feelings. “It’s a pity. It took me so much effort to rebuild my spiritual sea. I had even

planned to sort things out with Yun Meng.”

Standing beside him, Nie Qian had a grim expression on her face, not saying a word.

Even though she had hated Yun Zhiguo, they were once husband and wife. During the past few years, she had watched as Nie Tian slowly grew up. Seeing that Nie Tian had gotten off to a great start, she had even planned to seek out justice with Yun Zhiguo and Yuan Qiuying one day with his help.

She also had never anticipated that the whole Yun clan would crumble to dust in the blink of an eye like that.

“It’s better this way,” said Nie Tian. “This has saved me the work of ferreting out those bastards from the Yun clan and paying them back.”

In his mind, once he was strong enough, he would have single-handedly entered the Yun clan, and held all those who had been involved in his aunt’s mistreatment accountable.

However, the Yun clan was destroyed before that day ever came.

At that moment, frightened shouts rang out from the street where Nie Tian and the others had come from.

“Get out of the way!”

“Those three from the Hell sect will kill without batting an eye!”

“Clear out a path for them!”

Nie Donghai and An Rong exchanged a glance. Both of their expressions became incomparably grim. “The Hell sect!”

They all knew that numerous experts from the Hell sect had surrounded Clousoaring Mountain to prevent the disciples of the Clousoaring sect from rescuing the Spiritual Treasure sect.

Generally speaking, the battles between the major sects would not involve the commoners from the various cities.

The Clousoaring sect had been besieged by the Hell sect for quite a few days. However, not a single expert from the Hell sect had entered Black Cloud City to kill people.

Now that disciples from the Hell sect had arrived in Black Cloud City, it clearly violated the unwritten rule that all sides had played by for decades.

“Who can they be?” An Rong felt deeply worried.

Nie Tian was also secretly nervous.

When he was in Green Illusion dimension, he had witnessed the

power of the disciples from the Blood sect and Ghost sect. He had even battled with the witch Yu Tong on several occasions.

He was fully aware that the disciples from both the Blood sect and the Ghost sect had more battle experience than the disciples from the four sects, but he had never encountered any disciples from the Hell sect.

However, he had learned from Jiang Lingzhu, Pan Tao, and the others that disciples from the Hell sect were even more terrifying than those from the Blood sect and the Ghost sect.

During the time when Jiang Lingzhu, Pan Tao, and the other trial takers thought that the Hell sect had also entered the Green Illusion dimension and targeted the Mystic Mist sect, they all had believed that no one from the Mystic Mist sect would survive.

Including Zheng Bin!

Clearly, they thought that the disciples from the Hell sect had posed a much greater threat than the disciples from the Blood sect and the Ghost sect.

Nie Tian had a grim look on his face. “The Blood sect and the Ghost sect each have one Profound realm expert. The Hell sect on the other hand..... has two. According to my master, the current master of the Hell sect seems to be on the verge of breaking into the Profound realm. If the Hell sect alone has three Profound realm experts, then it will surpass all the other sects by a large margin, and be totally worthy of the title of number one sect in the Realm

of Flame Heaven.”

At the same time, Zhao Haifeng’s voice once again rang out from the distant street. “Duan Yuan and Qing Wen, you two go take a look at that meteor. If you see a key to the Heaven Gate, you guys collect it first.”

Soon, he appeared in front of Nie Tian and the others, standing as straight as a sword, proud and arrogant.

“It’s just three juniors...!?” Looking at them, An Rong went blank for a moment. Suddenly, a sense of insult filled his heart.

Zhao Haifeng and the other two were clearly only around fifteen years old. However, they actually dared to barge into the heart of Black Cloud City and kill people everywhere with just the three of them.

What did that mean?

No one from the Hell sect had ever put Black Cloud City in their eyes, or attached any importance to An Rong, the Yun clan, or the Nie clan!

It was as if in the eyes of the Hell sect experts, three juniors were already powerful enough to do anything they wanted in Black Cloud City.

An Rong was the master of the An clan. Every commoner in the

city had inwardly regarded him as the master of Black Cloud City.

The fact that the Hell sect sent three juniors on a task in the city had made him feel incredibly insulted.

Right before An Rong could lash out, Zhao Haifeng called out to his partners with a frown, “Duan Yuan! Qing Wen!”

The two of them stopped and looked back at him, curious of why he stopped them.

He narrowed his eyes, and his piercing gaze, like an ice-cold, sharp sword, landed on the back of Nie Tian’s left hand. He said, “The key on this meteorite has already been taken by him.”

Both Duan Yuan and Hu Qingwen followed his gaze and looked towards Nie Tian’s left hand.

Duan Yuan gave a cold harrumph. “Yeah, you’re right.”

Cold, gruesome air wreathed around the three pale-gray bone spears as they shot out from behind Zhao Haifeng.

The three bone spears were still dripping with blood as they flew forward.

Zhao Haifeng took a glance at Nie Tian and said in a relaxed tone, “We’ve come for the key to the Heaven Gate, and we don’t want to

waste our time. We still need to find more keys in the wasteland, so...”

After a brief pause, he said to Nie Tian, “As long as you cut off your left hand and give it to us, together with the Heaven Gate key that’s branded on it, we will leave immediately, and not waste another minute in Black Cloud City.”

Nie Tian grinned. “You want me to cut off my left hand for you?”

“At least that way, you’ll get to live,” said Zhao Haifeng.

“What if I refuse?” Nie Tian countered.

“Then you’ll die,” Zhao Haifeng answered.

SHEW!

A messenger eagle suddenly swooped in and landed on An He’s shoulder.

An He quickly tore off the pile of papers that was attached to the eagle’s leg. His face abruptly turned grim after he opened the paper and took a glance at it. He said, “Clanmaster, the guards that we have deployed to the city gate have been killed.”

Glowering at Zhao Haifeng, he added, “The guest elder from the Nie clan, Wu Tao, is also dead. They all died by the hands of these

three!”

“Mr. Wu!” A explosive shout escaped Nie Tian’s mouth.

In the entire Nie clan, Wu Tao was the only one besides Nie Donghai and Nie Qian, who had cared for Nie Tian.

Deep down, he had great respect for Wu Tao. He could still vividly remember that he had even specially visited Wu Tao and expressed his gratefulness before he left the Nie clan for the Cloudsoaring sect.

He never expected that Wu Tao, who had treated him so nicely, would have been killed by the three Hell sect disciples in front of him. A raging flame was instantly born in his heart. “You’ll die here!”

“Big brother Haifeng, it seems that it’s time to make a move.” Duan Yuan grew a bit impatient.

An Rong burst into a burning rage. “You dare to run amok in Black Cloud City with just the three of you! Does the Hell sect really think that we have no talents in Black Cloud City!?”

“Old man, you turned me down when I ask nicely, so I guess I’ll have to force it.” Zhao Haifeng shook his head as if he felt that their decision was very unwise. “An old man like you has spent your whole life cultivating, yet can’t even get admitted into the four sects. You never had the chance to learn real cultivation

methods from the four sects, or to experience the most brutal and bloody baptism.

“None of you will pose a threat to us, even though your cultivation base is slightly higher than ours.”

After making that comment, Zhao Haifeng held out his hand, pointed at An Rong and said, “Leave him to me. You two choose whoever you would like to fight from the other two old men.”

He was clearly referring to Nie Donghai and An He. In his eyes, out of all the others, only Nie Donghai and An He could somewhat pose a threat.

As for Nie Tian, he was completely ignored by Zhao Haifeng.

Chapter 131: Deep-Seated Strength Of The Hell Sect

Upon hearing Zhao Haifeng's words, Duan Yuan and Hu Qingwen immediately dashed towards Nie Donghai and An He.

WHOOSH!

Duan Yuan gestured towards his bracelet of holding, and in the next moment, a double-headed battle-axe that glittered with golden light flew out.

The double-headed battle-axe was golden in color and emanated frighteningly strong spiritual power fluctuations under the dark sky, together with a shiny, golden aura.

Under Duan Yuan's manipulation, the incomparably sharp battle-axe slashed towards Nie Donghai.

Nie Donghai's expression flickered and he hastily dodged the attack.

Before his spiritual sea had been shattered, his cultivation base had been in the great circle of the Heaven stage, only one step away from Greater Heaven.

However, since over the years he hadn't been able to gather the scattered spiritual power within his spiritual sea and couldn't stop

his spiritual power from seeping away, his cultivation base had already dropped from the great circle of Heaven stage to the middle Heaven stage.

Furthermore, he had been low-spirited regarding his future and focused only on raising Nie Tian. Hence, he even secretly traded in the spiritual tool that he had used for years.

Without a spiritual tool to use, coupled with the fact that he had just rebuilt his spiritual sea, he didn't have the confidence to win the fight against Duan Yuan, who was only in the early Heaven stage. He chose to defend himself for the moment.

The other Hell sect junior, Hu Qingwen, was also in the early Heaven stage. "Come out!" She sent out a wisp of will power, and in the next moment, a green, curved bow flew out of her bracelet of holding and fell into her hand.

Holding the bow in one hand, she extended her other hand to draw an arrow that glittered with bright light, and then placed it on the bow string.

An He was her target. As she pulled the bow taut, the arrow started to absorb the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth from the surroundings.

A large amount of intense spiritual power converged onto the sharp arrowhead, like a deadly snake that was flicking its tongue.

SHEW!

The arrow shot out like a shooting star, plummeting toward An He's chest.

An He's expression flickered and he hastily used a bronze shield to defend.

CLANG!

Blinding sparks splashed out from the surface of the shield. With a muffled groan, An He was sent back several steps. Experiencing numbness from the web between his thumb and forefinger, his face became extremely grim.

CLANK!

The arrow dropped to the ground. With a frown, Hu Qingwen pulled out another arrow and once again aimed at An He.

“No matter whether it's spiritual incantations or spiritual tools, yours are far inferior to ours.” Zhao Haifeng wasn't in a hurry to attack. He looked at the fuming An Rong and said, “I'll let you know how big the difference is between the strength of a man from a subordinate clan and a core disciple from the Hell sect.

“You'll see... the cultivation base is not the only factor in measuring one's strength.

“Profound incantations, delicate techniques, and high-ranked spiritual tools also play a crucial part in one’s battle prowess!”

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

As soon as he uttered these words, the three bone spears that had been floating in the air formed a vertical triangle in the air, before shooting towards An Rong.

Unlike how he used them to kill Wu Tao and other civilians of Black Cloud City, this time the bone spears seemed to have morphed into three icicles the moment they whizzed out.

The pale-gray bone spears seemed to be covered in a layer of impenetrable ice, releasing a terrifying, bone-piercing coldness.

The moment they shot out, Nie Tian felt that the temperature in the area had suddenly plunged, turning the hot summer night into a freezing winter night in a flash.

“Frost power!” These words escaped from Nie Tian’s mouth.

Obviously, Zhao Haifeng’s cultivation attribute was frost, and he had a strong frost power within him. Moreover, the incantation he just used must be an exquisite frost-attributed incantation.

Even the three bone spears had been customized to his need,

which all carried a terrifying ice-cold aura.

After he used the frost power within himself to fill the bone spears, they were finally able to display their real might. Even with the coldness they gave out alone, they could freeze a man's blood.

“The late Heaven stage!” With a strange expression on his face, An He let out an exclamation; he couldn't believe the teenager in front of him could actually reach the late Heaven stage at such a young age.

He, on the other hand, was already sixty years old, but only had a cultivation base that was in the early Greater Heaven stage.

Zhao Haifeng was just one step away from entering the Greater Heaven and reaching his level.

An Rong was secretly shocked. “This kid might be able to step into the Greater Heaven stage before the age of twenty! This is unbelievable! This is monstrous! Is everyone from the Hell sect as frightening as him?!”

Knowing that the frost-aura-wreathed bone spears that had shot in his direction were nothing ordinary, he didn't have the audacity to fight them head-on, even though his cultivation base was one stage higher than Zhao Haifeng's.

Just like Nie Donghai, he also chose to dodge the attacks, wishing to strike Zhao Haifeng when the power of the bone spear wore out.

Unfortunately, the three bone spears that contained raging frost power didn't show even the slightest signs of exhaustion.

An Rong didn't know that those three bone spears had been floating in the air ever since Zhao Haifeng had appeared in Black Cloud City, as if they weren't affected by gravity.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The three bone spears radiated white, freezing auras as they circled back and dashed towards An Rong again.

Standing in his original place, Zhao Haifeng hadn't move a muscle; however, his pupils had shed their black color and taken on a pale-gray color, which was the same with his bone spears.

The ground under his feet gradually froze, and the air around him even became filled with a frosty, white mist, as if the area he was in had turned into an icy tundra, constantly unleashing surges of bone-piercing coldness.

Nie Tian sensed with his psychic awareness, and found that wisps of white, frosty mist that were invisible to the naked eye, were secretly floating out of Zhao Haifeng's body and converging towards his three piercing bone spears.

“With one in the late Heaven stage, and two in the early Heaven stage, this is how formidable the strength of the Hell sect is!”

Zhao Haifeng and his two partners seemed only four or five years older than Mo Xi from the Ghost sect and Yu Tong from the Blood sect.

However, both Mo Xi and Yu Tong only had the cultivation bases of the ninth level of Qi Refining when they were in the Green Illusion dimension.

As of today, the two of them had only reached the early Lesser Heaven stage, the same stage Nie Tian was in.

Furthermore, they had been both viewed as elite disciples and regarded highly by their respective sects.

The Hell sect, on the other hand, had sent three of their common juniors, and they all turned out to have Heaven stage cultivation bases!

The leader of the three, Zhao Haifeng, had even reached the late Heaven stage, and was only one step away from advancing into the Greater Heaven stage.

“The Hell sect is so much stronger than the Ghost sect and the Blood sect...”

He realized that the fact that the Hell sect could become the leader of their alliance was not only because they had two Profound realm experts, but also because their deep-seated

strength far surpassed the Ghost sect and the Blood sect.

Therefore, it made sense that the Hell sect had been the party that gave orders, and the other two sects had acknowledged its leadership, obediently taking their orders.

“The Hell sect is too powerful! No wonder people from the other realms only informed the Hell sect that the Heaven Gate would appear in their territory and asked them for some spots to enter, but didn’t dare to come and take them forcefully.

“Even those foreign Qi warriors feared the Hell sect’s strength, so they chose cooperation over war.”

By that time, he finally understood why the small group of three dared to act so recklessly in Black Cloud City, completely ignoring the authority of the An clan, Yun clan, and Nie clan.

Their contempt towards others was based on their formidable strength. Every disciple of the Hell sect believed that their sect was the strongest sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven and its one and only true owner.

PUFF!

The double-headed battle-axe suddenly shot out beams of blinding, golden light in every direction. Unable to avoid them in time, several bloody wounds were cut open on Nie Donghai’s left arm.

“Grandfather!”

Although he knew perfectly well that his own cultivation base was inferior to Duan Yuan’s by a whole stage, Nie Tian still bolted towards Nie Donghai with an angry roar.

“Nie Tian! Don’t come near me! There’s no way you can beat him!” Nie Donghai shouted in an attempt to stop Nie Tian from coming to his aid.

Hearing Nie Donghai’s shout, Zhao Haifeng, Duan Yuan, and Hu Qingwen all cast their gazes towards Nie Tian.

“Nie Tian? That name sounds quite familiar,” Zhao Haifeng muttered to himself.

“He’s the disciple that Eccentric Wu has recently taken in.” Standing beside him, Duan Yuan reminded him.

“Wu Ji’s disciple!” Zhao Haifeng gave Nie Tian a serious glance for the first time.

After looking Nie Tian up and down, he shook his head and said, “How come he’s only in the early Lesser Heaven stage? Even those two seniors of our sect hold Wu Ji in high esteem and praise him to be one of the most miraculous people in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“His disciple shouldn’t be this weak...

“That Nie Tian was only admitted as his disciple six months ago,” said Hu Qingwen.

With a nod, Zhao Haifeng said, “Oh, so that’s how it is. Since he’s Wu Ji’s disciple, we’ll spare his life. Capture him alive. He may be of great use to us in the future.” He gave the order to Duan Yuan.

“Got it.” Duan Yuan immediately replied.

PUFF!

At that time, Nie Tian had already reached Nie Donghai’s side. Hit in the chest by a beam of golden light, blood instantly sprayed out, painting his shirt red.

He had only been hit by the golden light that had been emanated by the double-headed battle-axe, but it felt as if he had been gashed by a sharp blade, leaving a long, bleeding wound in his chest.

Nie Tian’s face turned especially grim as he realized that Duan Yuan was the strongest opponent he had ever encountered by far.

Chapter 132: The Strongest Man In The Realm Of Flame Heaven

Meanwhile, on the back mountain of Cloudsoaring Mountain.

Chang Sen and his wife Kong Yun, both Profound realm experts from Hell sect, had been discussing the Dao of cultivation with Wu Ji over the past few days, in the same manner they might chat about household affairs.

As opposed to what the others had expected, ever since they came to the Cloudsoaring Mountain, both Chang Sen and Kong Yun hadn't had even the slightest intention to go to war.

When Kong Yun found out that the experts from Mystic Mist sect and Grayvale sect had joined hands and marched towards the Hell sect, she had apologized to Wu Ji, and then soared away.

Chang Sen stayed and continued to discuss the Dao of cultivation with Wu Ji.

With a tall and sturdy frame, Chang Sen wore rough linen garments and no shoes. No one would have considered him to be a Profound realm Qi warrior. Instead, he looked more like a farmer who had been busy with rural activities his whole life.

His hands and feet were big and strong, his robust body resembled that of a tiger, and his voice sounded loud and profound like a giant bell.

Not far away from where they were, experts from both Cloudsoaring Sect and Hell sect were still fighting endlessly and fiercely over the Heaven Gate keys on the meteors.

However, Wu Ji and Chang Sen turned a blind eye to it and went on to exchange their understandings of cultivation.

Chang Sen had come to Wu Ji's residence when the Ghost sect and Blood sect invaded the Spiritual Treasure sect. He just sat with Wu Ji and chatted about whatever that came to mind.

Wu Ji had known about his purpose ever since he had arrived. However, he did not point it out directly, but rather chatted with him.

Until this moment...

Chang Sen remained silent for a while before he suddenly said, "I'll be leaving soon. Brother Wu, you are the only person whom I respect deeply in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven. I've benefited a great deal from our conversations, and I've always admired you for having taught two extremely talented disciples."

Wu Ji had a calm look on his face. "It's all because they worked hard."

Chang Sen nodded in assent, and said, "Brother Wu, Fang Hui and the others may not know about this, but you ought to be aware

that in my eyes, the alliance between the four sects is too weak to withstand a single blow.

“If I wanted to, I could easily eliminate the four of them from the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“I’ve only allowed them to exist so that they can serve as sharpening stones for disciples from the Hell sect. I’ve never considered them as swords that may become as sharp as the Hell sect.

“In my eyes, the Blood sect and Ghost sect are not that different from the other four sects.

“I have to find worthy opponents for the Hell sect in the Realm of Flame Heaven if we want to prosper. Even though I have the strength to take over all of the other sects, I chose not to.

“Because, without opponents, our disciples would lose their sense of crisis and motivation.

“It has been my intention that the other sects persist, so that our disciples can polish themselves and sharpen their edge.”

From the way he spoke, it seemed if he had wanted, the Hell sect alone would be more than capable of sweeping across the whole Realm of Flame Heaven and making all other sects submit to them obediently.

Wu Ji didn't say a word to refute him.

It seemed that he agreed with Chang Sen's assertion, and didn't think even for a moment that Chang Sen had really been speaking without thinking.

That was because he understood better than anyone how powerful the man in front of him was.

They were both in the Profound realm. Chang Sen, however, had already reached the great circle, and was only one step away from stepping into the Soul realm.

He deserved the title of the strongest man in the Realm of Flame Heaven. He was the only one who had stepped into the late Profound realm. All the other Profound realm cultivators had only reached the early or middle stage.

Even though there was one Profound realm expert in each of the sects among the four sects, with the exception of Wu Ji, the other three experts were all only at the early Profound realm.

As for Wu Ji himself, he had only managed to step into the middle Profound realm not too long ago.

He also understood that if he couldn't run into some good fortune, he wouldn't have enough years to last until he stepped into the Soul realm where he could extend his longevity.

Chang Sen narrowed his eyes as he looked at the fierce battle at the foot of the mountain, watching the experts from both the Cloudsoaring sect and Hell sect fighting over the Heaven Gate keys.

“You never know. Even the powerful experts from the Realm of Earth Sieve didn’t foresee that the Heaven Gates would have its own qualifications this time.

“If I had known about this, I would have prevented the Ghost sect and Blood sect’s invasion of the Spiritual Treasure sect.

“What’s done is done. It’s no longer necessary to continue with the battle.

“I will allow those who have already obtained the keys to enter the Heaven Gate. I won’t add on anymore obstacles.

“Many from other realms have longed to enter the Realm of Flame Heaven for many years. In the past, there haven’t been enough benefits that drove them to make efforts to step into the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“The appearance of the Heaven Gate and the Earth Flame Beast breaking free from Scarlet Flame Mountain Range heralds the changes that are going to take place. In the future, even more strange phenomena will present themselves in the Realm of Flame Heaven. By that time, powerful forces from other realms that even I am not certain if I could resist, will reveal themselves in the Realm of Flame Heaven one after another.

“The civil war within the Realm of Flame Heaven might result in the death of many disciples who are below Worldly realm, due to their insufficient strength.

“On the other hand, the civil war can also possibly motivate the weaker ones, allowing them to make breakthroughs in desperate and unfavorable circumstances and as a result, step into the Worldly realm.

“I hope that after the Heaven Gate trial, there will be more of our disciples who can advance into the Worldly realm.

“Because they will be the ones that we’ll rely on to defend the Realm of Flame Heaven from outsiders.

“From now on, I will restrict the Blood sect and Ghost sect from instigating more fights. I also hope that you can inform the other three sects and let them understand that in no more than ten years, the Realm of Flame Heaven will face attacks from outsiders.

“It’s about time we prepared ourselves.”

Chang Sen took his time to explain in lengths his worries and the true purpose of his visit.

Experts from the four sects had all reckoned that the Blood sect and Ghost sect had taken advantage of the fact that the Profound realm expert from the Mystic Mist sect wasn’t in the Realm of

Flame Heaven, as well as the fact that the Profound realm expert from the Grayvale sect was in his ultimate secluded mediation, to weaken the strength of their alliance.

However, Wu Ji had always known that that wasn't the truth.

If Chang Sen really wanted to start a war, he would have no one to fear!

Wu Ji nodded his head. "I'll inform the three sects."

Chang Sen nodded and said no more. A gale of wind blew past, and his body that had been sitting upright on the stone floor dissipated into the air like a puff of light smoke.

As soon as Chang Sen vanished from the back mountain of Cloudsoaring Mountain, Jiao Yang, master of the Hell sect, gave the order from the foot of the mountain, "Whether you've obtained a Heaven Gate key or not, withdraw from the Cloudsoaring sect immediately!"

Even though every expert from the Hell sect harbored doubts in their hearts upon hearing Jiao Yang's instruction, they could only struggle free from their fights with experts from the Cloudsoaring sect.

Even though there were still a number of key-carrying meteors that remained untouched, the Hell sect disciples all withdrew from their fights, followed Jiao Yang, and left in an orderly fashion.

Experts from Cloudsoaring Sect also felt puzzled, but they did not stop them from leaving.

Before long, every last one of the experts from the Hell sect that had surrounded the Cloudsoaring sect for many days disappeared.

...

In front of the Yun clan.

Nie Tian had been stabbed by the sputtering golden light, and his chest was now covered with blood. He dodged continuously within the rain of golden light beams as he tried to get closer to Duan Yuan.

Merely one light beam from the double-headed battle axe was already powerful enough to rip open a bloody wound in Nie Tian's chest, making him look miserable.

This made him realize how big of a gap there was between the Lesser Heaven stage and the Heaven stage.

FIZZ!

Golden light flashed behind Nie Donghai's back. He let out a muffled groan and staggered several steps forward.

The double-headed battle axe revolved rapidly in the air, as if it had turned into a cluster of bright golden light, as it chased after Nie Donghai.

Nie Tian on the other hand, was temporarily free of danger.

After turning around, he noticed that Nie Donghai was leading the double-headed battle-axe further away from him, in an attempt to prevent him from getting hurt by the golden light that had been emanated by the axe.

As soon as the battle-axe left, Nie Tian charged towards Duan Yuan like a fierce beast that had gone mad, without any regard for the pain in his chest.

In that moment, a burning rage was born in his heart and soon spread all over his body.

The spiritual power that had been surging within his dantian's spiritual sea, as well as the flesh power that had been hidden within his flesh and bones, burst out in that instant.

“Rage punch!” He roared violently in his mind.

BOOM!

In that moment, his fist that carried heaven-shaking fury gave vent to all the strength within him. Unusual space fluctuations seemed to ripple out from deep within the clouds of the Realm of

Flame Heaven.

A terrifying, enormous shadow abruptly appeared in the dark, night sky, which seemed to be resonating with the fearful might of the rage fist.

Having sensed the unfavorable situation, Duan Yuan forcefully condensed all his strength and cast a secret magic of the Hell sect.

“Purgatory Gate!”

Under the manipulation of his spiritual power, thread after thread of malevolent devil shadows came together and formed a strange-looking gate in front of his chest, which was full of sharp thorns and curved horns.

BANG!

Nie Tian’s fist rammed furiously into the strange gate. As a result, the gate shattered in the next moment.

PUFF!

A mouthful of fresh blood escaped from Duan Yuan’s mouth as he was sent flying backwards into the air, like he had been crushed by a mountain.

Blood was still flowing out of the corners of Duan Yuan’s mouth

after he landed with one knee on the ground. Slowly, he struggled to stand up from his kneeling position.

“What spiritual technique is this?!” he asked, face filled with shock and terror.

Chapter 133: Fighting Off The Enemy

CLANK!

The double-headed battle axe that had been pursuing Nie Donghai suddenly dropped to the ground, and its brilliant golden light faded away.

CRUNCH!

Duan Yuan was kneeling on the ground with one knee. When he attempted to stand up, the sharp, clear sound of snapping bones rang out from his chest.

A big mouthful of blood once again spurted out of Duan Yuan's mouth. Before he could stand upright, he staggered and dropped back to the ground.

Duan Yuan looked at Nie Tian with his eyes filled with fear and disbelief.

Nie Tian was only in the early Lesser Heaven stage. Moments before, he had managed to cast out such a terrifying power that was like an unstoppable flood, and instantly inflicted serious damage on him, by only using some kind of strange spiritual technique and without any help from a spiritual tool.

He examined himself with his psychic awareness and realized that Nie Tian's fist strike had fractured his bones in four places.

Not only that, a surge of raging flame energy that hadn't faded yet, was still wandering in his body, causing constant, stabbing pain in both his muscles and meridians.

After taking that one strike, Duan Yuan had even lost the strength to control the double-headed battle-axe, and thus was no longer able to hurt Nie Donghai.

“That’s...”

Both Hu Qingwen, who was about to shoot out another arrow, and Zhao Haifeng, who was manipulating his bone spears, had strange expressions on their faces.

Eyes filled with disbelief, they all cast their gaze towards Nie Tian.

Never had they imagined that Nie Tian, who was one whole stage inferior to Duan Yuan, could have injured him.

This didn't make sense!

With a fierce look on his face, Nie Tian grinned and said, “You said yourself that the cultivation base is not the only factor to measure one's strength, didn't you? Profound spiritual incantations and exquisite spiritual techniques can make up for one's deficiency in cultivation. The reason why I was able to hurt you is because I have exquisite spiritual techniques at my

disposal.”

Zhao Haifeng was aghast. “Are the spiritual techniques that Eccentric Wu taught him really... really that awesome?”

“Return!” With a wave of his hand, the bone spears that were constantly hovering around An Rong blurred into three streaks of ice-cold light and flew away from An Rong’s surroundings.

After drawing her bow to the fullest, Hu Qingwen also stopped. She was still aiming An He but didn’t shoot any arrows.

An Rong and An He both heaved a sigh of relief and looked towards Nie Tian.

“How are you doing, Duan Yuan?” Zhao Haifeng said with a frown.

Sitting on the ground, Duan Yuan’s chest area was already covered in blood that he had coughed up.

Duan Yuan only put on a bitter smile while sitting cross-legged, focusing all his energy on obliterating the force that was wandering within him and continuously damaging his flesh and bones.

He couldn’t even spare a breath to talk.

“I can’t believe he injured him so badly...” Zhao Haifeng was increasingly astonished.

After throwing the punch, Nie Tian was also barely able to remain standing in place, holding on to the last of his strength.

His state wasn’t necessarily better than Duan Yuan’s.

The rage fist had practically drained all of his spiritual power and the power within his flesh.

At the moment, he had no battle prowess left other than his only remaining psychic power.

He acted as if nothing had happened, but couldn’t stop worrying inwardly. He knew that from now on, not only was he unable to help his grandfather and An Rong, he would even become a burden to them.

All Zhao Haifeng had to do was lay a hand on him and the tough front that he had put on would collapse in an instant.

He had been aware that by using the rage fist, it would put him in this kind of situation, but he had no other choice.

After all, Duan Yuan was too strong, with a cultivation base that was one whole stage superior. He couldn’t think of another way to seriously injure Duan Yuan besides using the raging fist, which he picked up from the mysterious land.

“Alright,” Zhao Haifeng said. “Since he is the disciple of Eccentric Wu, even given the fact that his cultivation base is low, he still should be considered to be a man worth killing.”

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The three pale-white bone spears that had been floating in the air suddenly emanated countless beams of ice-cold light, within which lay a formidable frost power.

Apparently, Zhao Haifeng was ready to strike.

“Watch out!” Seeing that Zhao Haifeng had targeted Nie Tian, both Nie Donghai and An Rong gathered towards Nie Tian without even thinking about it.

Bitterness could be seen in Nie Tian’s eyes as he stared at the bone spears thrumming with frost power without any way out.

BOM BOM BOM!

All of a sudden, the completely depleted Nie Tian felt his heart start beating madly.

At the same time, a wisp of soul will, only detectable to him, came through from afar and descended in Black Cloud City.

“Flame Dragon Armor...” Only moments passed before Nie Tian recognized it. Elation filled his glittering eyes.

After finishing collecting all the Earthflame Crystal Strings from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, the Flame Dragon Armor had finally tracked Nie Tian down and followed his aura to Black Cloud City.

It seemed to have sensed that he had fallen into a terrible situation. Therefore, it had begun to speed toward him even more quickly than before.

The arriving of the Flame Dragon Armor reignited the hope within Nie Tian’s heart, as he believed that Zhao Haifeng and his party wouldn’t get to touch him again.

Zhao Haifeng, who was about to channel the frost power within him and use it to send the three bone spears to attack Nie Tian, seemed to have been startled.

Due to the fact that he mainly practiced frost or ice spiritual incantations, he was very sensitive to cold and hot auras.

Even before the Flame Dragon Armor showed itself, he had already sensed that the temperature within Black Cloud City had begun to rise.

The way that the temperature rose was obviously not natural. He felt an inexplicably oppressive feeling weighing down on him,

which made him extremely uncomfortable.

Zhao Haifeng had always been known as a decisive person in the Hell sect. After a brief scang, he rapidly turned to Hu Qingwen and said, “Take Duan Yuan. We’re leaving.”

“What!?” Hu Qingwen didn’t understand.

Duan Yuan also snapped open his eyes and looked towards him confusedly.

“Let’s get out of here.” Zhao Haifeng slightly frowned and said, “It’s not our day today. As for the Heaven Gate keys, we can get them through other methods.”

Even though Hu Qingwen and Duan Yuan were still full of questions, they believed that Zhao Haifeng must have his reasons.

He had never made a move without a purpose.

“Okay!” Obviously, Hu Qingwen placed a lot of trust in him. She put away her bow and arrow and hefted Duan Yuan onto her back.

“Let’s go!” Zhao Haifeng told her to leave first as he cast a cold glance towards Nie Tian and said, “Now that you’ve got a key to the Heaven Gate, I guess I know where we’ll meet again.”

With these words, he left with Hu Qingwen under the

disbelieving gazes of Nie Donghai, An Rong, and An He.

“What happened just now?” Their actions left An Rong completely confused.

Nie Donghai also shook his head in confusion. “I don’t know what happened to that kid. Considering his strength, if he kept fighting, we probably wouldn’t have been able to hold on for long.”

“Those Hell sect disciples are truly terrifyingly strong.” An He shared a similar opinion.

It never occurred to any of them to pursue Zhao Haifeng and his party, as they all deemed that if they enraged Zhao Haifeng by chasing after his group, they would be the ones that would end up with more injuries.

“That guy sensed the crisis brought upon by the Flame Dragon Armor?” Nie Tian’s eyes glittered with a strange light.

Only because there was a mysterious link between the Flame Dragon Armor’s soul and his own, was he able to sense its approach.

Everyone else didn’t feel a thing, even An Rong, whose cultivation base was the highest among the crowd.

Zhao Haifeng was clearly going to make a move. However, he

changed his idea at the last moment while looking around with an alerted face. He must have sensed the fluctuations in the air and noticed something from the change in the temperature.

He probably had suspected that a powerful expert, skilled at fire-attributed incantations, was approaching Black Cloud City, and decisively retreated to avoid him.

This person knew when to yield and when to not, and also had surprisingly good observation skills. As soon as he sensed danger, he immediately dropped everything and firmly withdrew from the situation.

Without a doubt, Zhao Haifeng was the most intelligent among all the opponents at his age that Nie Tian had ever encountered.

Compared to him, Mo Xi from the Ghost sect and Yu Tong from the Blood sect were clearly weaker by a large extent.

“Do you feel the rise in the temperature?” An He suddenly asked.

An Rong let out a sigh and said, “It’s because that brat from the Hell sect left. He excelled at ice and frost magics, and his spiritual weapon was also extremely out of the ordinary. With him being here, it felt as if the area where we were in had been cloaked with a layer of frost. We are only feeling the temperature in Black Cloud City going back to normal now that he’s gone. That kid gave me the chills. The Hell sect’s foundation truly is astonishing to be able to nurture young disciples like him.”

“No,” An He said, “I don’t think it’s because of that kid. Black Cloud City wasn’t even this hot and stuffy before the three of them came.”

Nie Tian was puzzled. “Then what is it?”

At this moment, Nie Tian looked up towards the gray night sky.

The curtain of night was lifting. Daybreak was at hand.

A thread of fiery light in the shape of a dragon was shooting in their direction in the gray sky.

“No way! Here comes another meteor?!” An Rong cried out.

The faces of Nie Donghai and An He turned pale with terror, not knowing what to do.

Hours ago, a meteor from outer realm had turned the entire Yun clan into ruins. How big of a disaster would it be if another one descended upon Black Cloud City?

In the streets, numerous civilians of Black Cloud City started to run about aimlessly while letting out miserable wails.

“They’re coming again!”

“Oh my god!”

“Run everybody! Run!”

SHEW!

With an incredible speed, the shooting light closed in on the Yun clan.

“It’s coming for the Yun clan again?!” Nie Donghai exclaimed with a ghastly face.

“No.” Finally, Nie Tian said, “It’s coming for me.”

Chapter 134: A Temporary Calm

As soon as Nie Tian uttered those words, the fiery shooting light that had been traveling at a high speed suddenly slowed down.

When An Rong and the others looked up at it, it didn't seem as large as the meteors that had descended from outer realm. Rather, it was like a surging ball of fire.

“It's coming for you?” An Rong was taken aback by Nie Tian's words.

Nie Donghai's expression flickered. “What is that? Did you do something to piss it off?” He assumed that the fireball had locked onto Nie Tian because it was going to kill him.

“It means no harm, grandpa,” Nie Tian explained.

SHEW!

The dashing ball of fire stopped steadily right in front of Nie Tian.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Countless wisps of flame were like slithering, burning snakes, bit by bit retracting into the armor.

Only then did the crowd finally have a clear look of the mysterious thing that had burned like a sun. It was actually a set of exquisite armor.

Nie Tian's eyes were fixed on the Flame Dragon Armor as he eagerly examined it with rapt attention.

Compared to a few days before, the many densely-packed patterns on the surface of the Flame Dragon Armor had not only become a lot clearer, but even seemed to have an unusual power that resembled lava flowing within them.

He even sensed a surging fluctuation of life force merely by standing close to the Flame Dragon Armor.

In his eyes, the Flame Dragon Armor in front of him was no longer a tool! Rather, it was a living being that had blood and flesh and even possessed a soul!

He held out his hand and tried to touch it.

However, before his hand could touch the Flame Dragon Armor, it suddenly shrunk and turned into a shooting, fiery light, disappearing into his bracelet of holding in the next second.

A strand of aura that could only be understood by his soul came through from the Flame Dragon Armor.

He instantly understood that after taking in a large amount of

Earthflame Crystal Strings, the Flame Dragon Armor hadn't had the chance to absorb and refine them yet.

It needed time to gradually digest the benefits brought by the Earthflame Crystal Strings, and it was going to finish its transformation in his bracelet of holding.

"I-it's gone?" An Rong was astonished.

Nie Donghai suddenly grew excited. "Little Tian, that spiritual tool... belongs to you?"

Nie Tian nodded.

"It flew here and found you on its own?" Nie Donghai exclaimed. "Does it possess a soul?"

Nie Tian nodded again.

An He and An Rong were both shocked to their very core. "A spiritual tool with a soul! Is it a Spirit Channeling grade treasure?!"

Meanwhile, many civilians carefully gathered around from the distant streets. They all wanted to see what had happened.

Nie Tian was about to explain the origin of the Flame Dragon Armor before hastily shutting his mouth.

“Master An, Master Nie, did you see a fireball falling from the sky just now?” A panic-stricken citizen asked.

An Rong took a glance at Nie Tian and said in a plain tone, “Yes, I saw it. It seemed to have fallen onto the meteor.”

“Ahhh?!”

“Master An, can we go over there and take a look?”

The crowd of citizens asked earnestly.

An Rong shrugged and said, “Suit yourselves.”

“Little Tian, let’s go back to the Nie clan,” Nie Donghai said.

Nie Tian nodded.

They passed through the crowd of curious commoners and went straight towards the Nie clan, putting the issues of the Yun clan aside.

They also noticed that Zhao Haifeng and his party didn’t leave in the direction of the wasteland where An Shiyi had gone.

That meant that not only had they given up on the Heaven Gate key on Nie Tian’s hand, they even gave up on the keys that might

have appeared in the wasteland.

It was also because of this that An Rong and the rest of them did not worry for the safety of An Shiyi and the people with her, and thus could return to the Nie clan so calmly.

Nie Tian was the only one who knew that Zhao Haifeng only left Black Cloud City and the nearby wasteland because he feared that an expert who practiced flame spiritual incantations would descend in the region.

By the time they arrived in the Nie clan, Black Cloud City was already in broad daylight.

Nie Tian simply explained about the origin of the Flame Dragon Armor to Nie Donghai, An He, and An Rong in a secluded room. He told them that he had obtained the Flame Dragon Armor in the Treasure Convention held by the Spiritual Treasure sect, and also urged them not to leak the information.

Since An He and An Rong were present, Nie Tian didn't go on to explain the secret links between the Blood Core and the Flame Dragon Armor.

Even without that, having been assured that the Flame Dragon Armor was a Spirit Channeling grade treasure, the three of them were all shocked to the point where they were at a loss for words.

“Spirit Channeling grade treasure, Spirit Channeling grade

treasure...” Nie Donghai was immersed in great joy.

An Rong and An He did nothing but stare blankly at him.

They both had a thorough knowledge of Nie Tian’s growth. Only a few years ago, Nie Tian’s name was unknown in Black Cloud City, and he was constantly targeted and pushed aside by his own clansmen.

Neither of them had ever imagined that Nie Tian would not only become Wu Ji’s disciple, but also come to possess a Spirit Channeling grade treasure!

They were all well aware of what a Spirit Channeling grade treasure meant. They knew that as long as Nie Tian could stay safe and continue to pursue his cultivation, there would definitely be a place for him in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“You have a good grandson.” Mixed emotions rose in An Rong’s heart.

Nie Donghai couldn’t stop chuckling.

At this moment, the sound of a Nie clan member came through from outside, “Miss An is here!”

Upon hearing the news, Nie Tian and the others quickly walked out of the secluded room.

At first glance, Nie Tian saw that there was a door-shaped pattern that was identical to his branded on the back of An Shiyi's milky left hand. Her face also looked radiant.

Jiang Lingzhu from the Cloudsoaring sect beamed as she waved her hand at the crowd with a wide smile.

There was also a door-shaped pattern on the back of her hand, which meant that she had also acquired the eligibility to enter the Heaven Gate trial.

On the other hand, Pan Tao, An Ying, Ye Gumo, and Nie Qian, who had also rushed there, were all wearing long faces and couldn't stop sighing. Clearly, they had made no gains.

"Congratulations," Nie Tian said while smiling.

With a faint smile on her lips, An Shiyi looked at him and said, "From the look of it, I'll also get to enter Heaven Gate. We can go together. I hope that we can both make some gains inside that mysterious Heavenly Gate."

"Nie Tian," Jiang Lingzhu said with a bright smile, "I've just received a message from Uncle Li, telling us to return to the sect. All the Hell sect disciples that surrounded the sect have all retreated. According to Uncle Li, there won't be any war in the Realm of Flame Heaven in the near future. The Hell sect also won't try to stop those who have already obtained their keys to the Heaven Gate."

Nie Tian was surprised. “Everything has been straightened out?”

Jiang Lingzhu seemed to be in a terrific mood. She nodded and said, “I don’t know what happened either, but it looks like there won’t be any more conflicts for the time being.”

“Is there any news from Uncle Liu and Sister Xin, who were at Scarlet Flame Mountain Range?” Nie Tian continued to ask.

As soon as these words came out, Jiang Lingzhu’s expression turned dim. She shook her head and said, “Not yet.”

Upon Nie Tian mentioning the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, An Shiyi, An Ying, and even Pan Tao suddenly became silent.

The devastating changes in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range would definitely make the Spiritual Treasure sect suffer painful and significant losses. After this incident, the Spiritual Treasure sect might still persist. However, its strength would certainly be greatly undermined and surpassed by other sects.

They were all disciples from the Spiritual Treasure sect. Before everything happened, their sect was stronger than the Cloudsoaring sect, Grayvale sect, and the Mystic Mist sect, which had made them full of confidence.

But now...

At that time, the low-pitched cry of the Thunder Beast resounded from the heavens as it descended from the sky.

Moments later, the Thunder Beast stopped steadily in the square of the Nie clan.

This time, its eyes were only fixed on Nie Tian.

“It’s here to pick you up,” An Shiyi said softly.

From the Thunder Beast’s eyes, Nie Tian had also realized that the purpose of its trip to Black Cloud City was most likely to take him back to Wu Ji. Therefore this time, no matter how many Green Lightning gems An Shiyi gave it, the Thunder Beast would still not take her along.

“Well then, I’ll see you all later.”

After saying farewell to the crowd, Nie Tian jumped onto the back of the Thunder Beast. Then, the Thunder Beast spread its wings and soared into the clouds.

Nie Tian looked down and saw everyone slowly turning into small dots and soon disappearing from his sight.

Before long, the Thunder Beast landed on the back mountain of the Cloudsoaring sect. He jumped off and instantly saw his master Wu Ji, who seemed to be in a daze.

He bowed respectfully. “Master.”

Wu Ji snapped out of his reverie. He looked at him and with a nod, he said, “Did you spread the news of the Heaven Gate with my name?”

“Yes, I did,” Nie Tian admitted, fearing that Wu Ji would scold him for it. “After I found out about it, I felt that it was necessary to let everyone know about the truth. That’s why I had to use your name and influence.”

“You did nothing wrong.” Wu Ji didn’t mind how he handled it. Instead, he asked, “But where did you get it from?”

“Hua Mu, the doctor who saved me once, visited me again in Black Cloud City,” Nie Tian said, not holding anything back. “He was the one who told me about it.”

Wu Ji was astonished. “Hua Mu? That foreign doctor!?”

“Exactly.”

Chapter 135: Wu Ji's Worries

Nie Tian didn't hold anything back from Wu Ji.

He explained everything to him in length, including what Hua Mu had said to him and how he obtained the Flame Dragon Armor.

“Even I didn't receive any information regarding the Heaven Gate until recently,” Wu Ji frowned and said. “The Hell sect, on the other hand, only managed to get a hold of the information through a very powerful expert from the Realm of Earth Sieve. That Hua Mu person has such quick access to this kind of information. I'm afraid he's far beyond ordinary.”

After a brief pause, he continued, “He planned for Lai Yi to take the Flame Dragon Armor out of the Realm of Dark Underworld. It seems that Hua Mu...”

Wu Ji didn't finish his sentence.

After explaining everything that had happened in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, Nie Tian patiently waited in silence for Wu Ji to give his opinion and advice.

He knew in his heart that his master would point out the brightest path for him.

Wu Ji remained wordless, seemingly trying to sort out the details and find an answer. Quite some time later, he said, “It's your

blessing that a Spirit Channeling grade treasure acknowledged you. However, your cultivation base is still too low, and such a precious treasure is no ordinary item. Therefore, you have to bear one thing in mind: never bring it out unless you face a situation of life and death.

“I’ll try my best to cover up the fact that the Flame Dragon Armor is in your possession, since I fear that if such information spreads to the Realm of Dark Underworld, it will only attract more trouble.”

He didn’t ask for the Flame Dragon Armor to study it, but rather imparted to him the miraculous features of Spirit Channeling treasures. He also taught him how to get along with such precious treasures and how to use his flesh power and spiritual power to gradually strengthen the link between him and the treasure, so that he would be able to display its true might when he became strong enough.

Nie Tian listened with all his heart, and engraved every one of his words in his mind.

“Alright, that’s enough about the Flame Dragon Armor.” After passing all his understanding and knowledge regarding Spirit Channeling grade treasures to Nie Tian, Wu Ji said, “Now that you’ve obtained a key to the Heaven Gate, you’d better participate in the trial when the time comes. But I’m still a bit worried about your safety in there, since cultivators from the Lesser Heaven stage won’t be the only ones to step into the Heaven Gate; cultivators in Heaven stage and Greater Heaven will also enter.”

His expression looked somewhat grim as he frowned briefly. “Most importantly, talented youngsters from the other eight realms will also enter through the other two Heaven Gates. Not only do they have higher cultivation bases, they also have superior spiritual incantations and techniques at their disposal. They may even possess spiritual tools that are more exquisite and of higher ranks.”

He looked deeply towards Nie Tian. With a gentle sigh, he said, “Although you’re just as gifted as they are, the years you’ve spent on cultivation are limited. Also, I never expected that one of the Heaven Gates would open up in the Realm of Flame Heaven. Otherwise, I would have brought you back to the Cloudsoaring sect the day I discovered you.

“The reason why I let you stay in the Nie clan was that I wanted to see if you had other special traits aside from your innate talent.

“I wanted to have a more thorough understanding of you before bringing you to the Cloudsoaring Mountain, and as I’ve expected you didn’t let me down.

“Who would have expected that the Heaven Gate would open up at such an unfavorable time?”

Wu Ji felt quite regretful.

He understood perfectly well the fortune the Heaven Gate could bring Nie Tian. He originally thought that when Nie Tian had become strong enough, and even if the Heaven Gates didn’t appear

in the Realm of Flame Heaven, he would be able to get him a spot with his own influence.

However, he seemed laden with anxiety when Nie Tian obtained a key to the Heaven Gate all by himself...

According to Nie Tian's performance in the Green Illusion dimension trial, he believed that Nie Tian was mentally strong enough for the brutality and bloodiness that awaited in the Heaven Gate trial.

He was only hung up on the fact that Nie Tian's cultivation base was rather insufficient, and feared that powerful Qi warriors of the Heaven or Greater Heaven stage from other realms would mercilessly kill him the moment they ran into each other.

The way Wu Ji taught his disciples was quite different from others'; he wouldn't pull up seedlings to help them grow by making disciples advance in their cultivation levels with the help from large amounts of medicinal pills and other external forces.

He put more value in a solid foundation. He wanted for his disciples to make breakthroughs mostly based on the enlightenment they drew from their own experience, and only with a small nudge from him.

However, the current situation was that the Heaven Gate trial was right around the corner, and he didn't want Nie Tian to miss such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This was why he was so bothered.

“How can I help him...?” Wu Ji fell into a deep pondering.

“Master, when did you discover me?” Nie Tian was intrigued.

Wu Ji snapped out of his thoughts, and a faint smile appeared on his face. “It was when you used the Blood Core to absorb the flame power from the mine that I sensed the unusual turbulence in the Spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth. I laid my eyes on you ever since. If it weren’t for me, you and your aunt would have died in the mine when it collapsed.”

“Thank you for your kindness, master!” Nie Tian suddenly connected all the dots.

As he recalled, during that time when he and Nie Qian had absorbed flame power with the dragon bone, it caused the mountain to tremble and the rocks over their heads to fall. However, very strangely, the rocks had showered down all around them, but not a single one hit them.

Afterwards, when they tried to escape from the mine, the rocks that had blocked the tunnel all exploded into pieces, allowing them to get through unscathed.

After they had emerged, Nie Qian gave the credit to the blessing and protection of the Nie clan ancestors.

Although Nie Tian didn’t buy all that back then, he couldn’t

come up with a better explanation for the miraculous, illogical phenomena, and thus half-believed that they had been favored by gods.

Only on this day did he finally come to understand that the “god” that had favored him was actually the elder in front of him.

“There’s another secret to the Blood Core, master. During the time when I was still living in the Nie clan, I used it to enter a whole other world, and I...”

Realizing that Wu Ji had been protecting him and hold nothing back with him the whole time, Nie Tian wanted to reveal his biggest secret to him.

Even though, at this point, he could still remember Nie Donghai’s warning that he should never tell anyone about the fact that he had used the dragon bone to enter a mysterious land.

Even Nie Donghai himself hadn’t asked him about what had happened, fearing that someone might trap and capture him one day and pry the information out of him.

However, as Nie Tian was going to explain it to him, Wu Ji waved his hand and stopped him. “Say no more.”

Confusion stretched across Nie Tian’s face.

“I know,” Wu Ji said with a smile.

Nie Tian was taken aback. “You know?!”

Wu Ji nodded. “The moment the abnormal spatial fluctuations appeared in the Nie clan, I knew they were caused by you. I had known that the dragon bone of yours was beyond ordinary back when you used it to drain the flame power of the entire mine. You disappeared for a few days. I tried to search for you and couldn’t find your aura throughout the entire Realm of Flame Heaven. By that time, I knew that you had traveled to somewhere special.”

Nie Tian was shocked. “Master, you... can search for my aura throughout the entire Realm of Flame Heaven?”

“Yes, I can, but it’s very draining.” Wu Ji gave him a positive answer and continued, “I also know that you’ve gained a great deal in there. Now that you have the complete Flame Dragon Armor, and it’s gradually fixing itself with the Earthflame Crystal Strings it collected, I think you can consider trying to step into that mysterious land again.

“Rest assured. You can feel free to use the Flame Dragon Armor here. No one will be able to detect the anomaly in the spatial fluctuations when I’m around.

“I, on the other hand, need to think over how to help you prepare for the Heaven Gate trial in a way that can enhance your battle prowess without over-consuming your potential.

“This is it for today.”

With a wave of his hand, Wu Ji hinted for Nie Tian to go back to his hut and study the Flame Dragon Armor, hoping that he would be able to use it to return to the mysterious land just like the way he had before.

Upon hearing his instructions, Nie Tian rose to his feet and returned to his hut. After thinking for a while, he took the Flame Dragon Armor out of his bracelet of holding.

FIZZ!

A beam of light flashed across in the air and in the next moment, the Flame Dragon Armor steadily landed on the stone floor, emanating a halo of dark-red light.

He reached out and placed his hand on top of the Blood Core that was in the chest plate of the Flame Dragon Armor, as he tried to use his soul consciousness to communicate with the soul that lay within.

He expressed his wish to step into that mysterious land again.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

All of a sudden, flaming light shot out from the Flame Dragon Armor in every direction, and once again it became like a burning sun. Together with it, a surge of strange spacial fluctuations rippled outwards from within the small hut.

In the next moment, the Flame Dragon Armor seemed to have turned into a gate and engulfed Nie Tian.

Chapter 136: Reentering the Mysterious Land!

On the back mountain of Cloudsoaring Mountain...

Sitting quietly on the ground, Wu Ji saw numerous fine spacial rifts appear in the sky as if they were being split open by sharp blades.

The hut that Nie Tian was in practically disappeared into thin air in a flash, together with Nie Tian.

Multi-colored light flashed within the countless spacial rifts, as if they were secret tunnels that led to numerous unknown dimensions.

Wu Ji narrowed his eyes. With a brief movement of his soul, the rich spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the vicinity started to converge towards the mountaintop.

The spiritual Qi came in clusters like clouds, completely sealing off the entire area.

Even Jiang Zhisu, who was on the nearby Cloudsoaring Peak, couldn't detect the abnormal spatial activities in the region.

WHOOSH!

One after another, numerous blurry shadows flew out from the top of Wu Ji's head, which seemed like manifestations of his soul.

Each one swam into one of the spacial rifts and started exploring.

However, the spacial rifts quickly began to shrink and close up.

Before he could thoroughly explore the secrets within, Wu Ji sensed the unfavorable change and therefore had to command the countless shadows to fly back.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Before long, the spacial rifts closed up one after another, and the abnormal spatial fluctuations also returned to normal.

“There are space disruptions, but no signs of a gate to another dimension. The secret dimension gate must have only taken Nie Tian in, and transferred him to that mysterious world.” After thinking for a moment, he closed his eyes and started his meditation.

...

In the unknown, mysterious world.

For a second time, Nie Tian appeared on the dilapidated altar, facing the eight dragon skulls. Fear rose in Nie Tian's heart as he

looked into their hollowed eye sockets.

A surge of spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth that was several times richer than spiritual Qi in the Cloudsoaring sect overwhelmed him. Sitting where he was, without practicing the Qi Refining Incantation, he felt like he could cultivate at a high speed.

It seemed that nothing had changed. He was still enveloped by a terrifyingly strong gravitational field.

After bringing him there, the Flame Dragon Armor sat right next to him on the altar, and didn't fly back into his bracelet of holding.

Flickering with dazzling, fiery light, the Flame Dragon Armor seemed quite excited.

However, only moments later, it returned normal, and become dark and gloomy again.

There were no interactions between the Flame Dragon Armor and Nie Tian. It seemed that its soul had gone back to repairing itself and making the transition.

"God knows how many times faster it would be if I could practice cultivation here," Nie Tian whispered to himself and attempted to stand up.

Last time he was there, he couldn't stand on his feet, and could only barely raise his arm.

Now that he had broken into the Lesser Heaven stage and strengthened his body by consuming a large amount of second grade spirit beast meat, the first thing he wanted to do was to see if he could stand up and walk.

He summoned his strength and laboriously rose to his feet.

The mere act of standing up consumed quite a large portion of his spiritual power, as well as some of his flesh power.

This made him realize that it was almost impossible for him to step very far away from the altar and explore this mysterious land.

He was sure that he would use up all his strength just by walking several hundred meters from the altar.

Therefore, he chose not to do that. Instead, he sat back down and looked attentively towards the mountain-like arms that pierced into the distant sky.

Among them, one had its fingers stretched out, in an imposing gesture that seemed as if it was going to grab and pull down the heavens.

Just like last time, he imitated the gesture of the giant hand and grabbed towards the sky, while staring firmly at the distant arm.

Soon after, he vaguely sensed a mountain-consuming, domineering force being born in his arm.

The force, which could only be detected by the soul, gradually grew and spread to every corner of his body.

His spiritual sea moved as the force built up. Even the power that lay within his flesh and bones seemed to resonate with it. He slowly adjusted his mental state to attempt to match the gesture and the force.

He could keenly feel that the strength from his soul and flesh was now flowing within his meridians and blood vessels very rapidly.

The force was constantly on the rise.

He had his eyes fixed on the giant arm, and tried his best to comprehend its essence. At the same time, he constantly adjusted his spiritual sea and his body, in an attempt to completely immerse himself in the process.

A very long time passed.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

All of a sudden, the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth that had filled every corner of the mysterious land seemed to be attracted by some unknown magnetic field, as it gradually converged onto Nie Tian's location.

The white, misty spiritual energy continued to come together and condense into what seemed like clusters of clouds, which all gathered towards Nie Tian's upstretched hand.

His hand seemed to have become the center of the magnetic field, as a strong attracting force kept pulling all the spiritual energy clouds towards it.

In the palm of his raised hand, a bright, light ball of pure, condensed spiritual energy was gradually formed.

The misty ball of spiritual energy never stopped absorbing spiritual energy from the surroundings, and little by little, the extremely rich spiritual energy within the ball began to liquefy.

BANG!

Suddenly, the sleeve covering his raised arm exploded and turned into flying fibers as an extremely intense surge of spiritual energy fluctuations rippled out from within the spiritual energy ball.

Meanwhile, he suddenly felt an incomparably heavy weight on his lifted hand, as the half-tangible spiritual energy ball had become as heavy as a mountain.

Subconsciously, he yanked his hand down from the air.

Like a ball of bright light, the spiritual energy ball left the center of his palm and fell heavily onto the stone altar.

BOOM!

A loud crash echoed out as the ball burst. However, the stone altar didn't show any sign of cracking.

“What?!” The moment Nie Tian loosened up mentally, the force within him dispersed, and his spiritual sea and flesh and blood returned to normal.

Despite the significant consumption in his strength, he slowly moved to the place where the spiritual energy ball had fallen to, crouched down, and started to examine it.

Upon a closer look, he was certain that the stone altar only had the dust that had covered it blown away, while the revealed stone surface remained intact and seemed even very smooth and glossy, without even the smallest of fissures.

“This isn't right. The spiritual power within the spiritual energy ball was so pure and strong. Logically, even the toughest rock on Cloudsoaring Mountain would have shattered upon such a powerful collision.

“The only explanation would be that the altar is built with stones whose toughness has surpassed my knowledge.”

Eyes narrowing, Nie Tian pondered for a while before starting to examine himself.

Unlike the rage punch, this technique that he had used to condense a spiritual energy ball didn't seem to consume a large portion of his spiritual power.

Quite on the contrary, upon a thorough examination of himself, he found that the spiritual power within his spiritual sea had actually increased.

“This technique doesn't seem to be very useful. It takes a long time to condense a spiritual energy ball. No one will ever give me the time to form it in battle.

“Furthermore, it has a high requirement in the density of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth. The might of this technique probably won't be displayed to the fullest if the spiritual energy in the surroundings isn't rich enough.

“That shouldn't be all there is.”

After thinking for quite some time, a flash of inspiration hit him.

“When the spiritual energy ball landed on the ground, not only did I not expend any of my own spiritual power, but I actually gained a bit spiritual power. What would happen if I tried to allow the ball of spiritual energy into my spiritual sea?”

With these thoughts, he became enlivened. Once again, he raised his hand to imitate the gesture while fixing his eyes on the mountain-like arm that seemed to desire to rip the heavens from the sky.

A while later, he once again sensed the majestic force from the gigantic arm, something that could conquer mountains and devour rivers.

It seemed his spiritual sea and body had gradually adjusted themselves to collaborate with the changes that were taking place inside of him.

WHOOSH!

Shortly after, spiritual energy once again slowly converged onto the palm of his raised hand.

Moments later, a new spiritual energy ball was formed in his palm. When he found it too heavy to hold up, he immediately operated the Qi Refining Incantation, in an attempt to pull and guide the spiritual energy ball into his spiritual sea.

The fist-sized spiritual energy ball rapidly shrank when he tried to channel it with the Qi Refining Incantation.

Strand after strand of spiritual energy that was as smooth as a clear stream flowed rapidly into his palm, and followed his meridians straight into his dantian's spiritual sea.

Inside his spiritual sea, the vortex of spiritual power revolved at an astonishing speed, refining and making the spiritual energy increasingly pure and condensed.

The speed of the process was even several times faster than when he used spirit stones to cultivate.

Nie Tian's eyes suddenly lit up.

Chapter 137: Twisted Magnetic Field

As the spiritual energy within the swirling ball was gradually channeled into the vortex of spiritual power, it began to rotate several times faster than before.

And he hadn't even used any spirit stones to speed up the process!

After all the energy was absorbed by his spiritual power and went through a round of refining, Nie Tian examined himself with his soul and immediately found that the outermost ringed area of his spiritual sea had been filled with pure and condensed spiritual power.

The result of this round of cultivation was equivalent to that of several days of bitter cultivation with spirit stones.

If he could remain in this mysterious land and continue to gather and condense the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth into spheres like this, and then refine it into his spiritual sea, he was fairly certain that the speed of his breakthroughs in the Lesser Heaven stage would increase by seven or eight times!

However, that was assuming he could stay here.

Once he returned to the Cloudsoaring sect, it would be impossible for him to have such great improvement in his cultivation if he practiced with the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth over there.

The spiritual energy here was simply too dense and strong.

“Could it be that...this is a type of technique that can only be used in here? And not a explosive technique like the rage fist strike?” Nie Tian took his time to ponder the situation.

At the same time, he repeatedly used the technique to refine his spiritual sea.

Via this kind of method, he could temper his spiritual sea at an astonishing speed.

He sensed that he managed to finish one round of refinement of his spiritual sea within only approximately five days.

The originally faint and scattered spiritual energy within his white and foggy spiritual sea had become a lot denser and richer after a round of refinement.

However, he didn't feel that he had reached the breakthrough point in which he could no longer expand his spiritual sea and would urgently need to improve his cultivation base to become stronger; the way he had felt when he was at the peak of the ninth level of Qi Refining.

Thus, he realized that he would need to continue repeating the refining process of his spiritual sea.

Perhaps, he might have to go through another one or two rounds of refinement of his spiritual sea before he could reach the bottleneck. Only then would he be able to draw from his new enlightenment and understandings of spiritual power to break through into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

Having come to such a realization, he stopped refining his spiritual sea, as well as contemplating the mysterious technique of condensing spiritual energy balls.

After all, after repeatedly condensing spiritual energy balls to cultivate for some time, he believed that he had already grasped the essence of this technique.

Next, he looked towards two other enormous arms that pointed towards the sky.

From the look of it, those two arms likely belonged to the same titan buried deep under the ground. The palms of the two hands faced each other, while the fingers were curved into a mysterious seal.

In between the two hands was a strange magnetic field which seemed to have disrupted the natural flow of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the area.

After observing for some time, he tried to form an identical hand seal by gradually reaching out with his hands, making his palms face each other, and slightly curving his fingers.

After the gesture was complete, he gathered all his attention, and looked towards the two giant hands.

Suddenly, enlightenment of a certain seal entered his mind. He didn't waste a second before putting all his heart into learning that enlightenment.

In the next moment, his spiritual power, his flesh power, as well as his psychic power started to surge inside of him before immediately merging together and fusing into his hands.

A twisted magnetic field was gradually born within the space between his palms.

“My psychic power...” He could acutely sense the rapid consumption of his psychic power, which was much faster and more significant than the consumption of his spiritual power and flesh power.

One after another, countless strands of his psychic power floated out of his fingers and seeped into the twisted magnetic field between his palms.

Very quickly, he sensed that even the magnetic field around him had become twisted and chaotic!

All the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the vicinity began to surge in a chaotic fashion. Even the space around him seemed to fluctuate in an abnormal way, as if it had collapsed.

As the spell caster, he wasn't affected by the chaotic magnetic field at all, but he had a feeling that other living creatures who had stepped into it would immediately fall victims to the bizarre magnetic field.

However, since there wasn't a second person present, he couldn't test out how mighty its effect was.

The only thing he knew for sure was that the magnetic field had been continuously and rapidly consuming his psychic power, together with a small portion of his spiritual power and flesh power.

He also felt that as his psychic power ran low, the magnetic field gradually expanded outwards, with him as the center.

"Three meters, four meters, five meters..." He found that as soon as he stopped infusing his psychic power, the magnetic field would immediately stop expanding.

And as long as he continuously fed it with his psychic power, the magnetic field would keep stretching outward in every direction.

"Ten meters!" When the magnetic field reached a ten meter range, he started to experience dizziness, and thus knew that he was on the verge of overdrawing his psychic power.

He stopped immediately.

The moment he stopped fueling it with his psychic power, the chaotic and disruptive magnetic field that already covered a ten meter range stopped growing.

However at that time, he sensed that his spiritual power and flesh power was still being drained from him, seemingly providing power to sustain the magnetic field.

He was amazed by the violently surging spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, as well as the fact that even space seemed to be compressing, which formed a caving magnetic field around him.

“This technique also requires time to cast. Furthermore, the drain on my psychic power is extremely high. However, it seems that once it’s formed, it only needs a small portion of my spiritual power and flesh power to sustain it.

“Only, since I’m the only one here, and I’m completely unaffected by it, there’s no way for me to know how strong its true power is.

“It seems that I’ll have to learn that when I use it outside in the future. However, I must properly comprehend the essence of this technique before I leave, in order to make sure that I’ll still be able to cast it when I’m out of here.”

After thinking for a while, he felt somewhat exhausted, therefore stopped the hand seal.

As soon as he gave up the hand seal, the spiritual power and flesh power that had been continuously pouring out also stopped flowing outwards.

However, the mysterious, twisted magnetic field didn't disappear accordingly. On the contrary, it persisted.

Only, since there was no more energy supply, the field slowly shrank, and it seemed that it would eventually disappear as the time passed.

"One, two..." He silently counted in his head, and noticed that the twisted magnetic field completely dissipated into the air after roughly three minutes.

After the magnetic field disappeared, everything returned to normal. However, the psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power that he had consumed didn't come back.

The significant consumption of psychic power made Nie Tian lie on the ground with his eyes somewhat listless.

Looking at the dusky sky, he suddenly was suddenly hit by an incomparably strong sense of exhaustion, making him want nothing but to sleep.

The drain on his spiritual power could be recovered via cultivation with spirit stones. Moreover, the intense spiritual Qi of

Heaven and Earth in this area would also greatly help with the replenishment of his spiritual power.

The flesh power he had lost could be quickly restored via eating spirit beast meat, but the drain on his psychic power seemed hard to recover within a short time.

The only way he knew of was to sleep, therefore he simply gave in to the exhaustion and slipped into a deep slumber.

After sleeping for an unknown period of time, he opened his eyes and, as expected, found himself full of energy and in great spirits.

After that, he went on to repeatedly imitate and comprehend the mysterious hand seal made by the two enormous hands within the mysterious land. By coordinating the psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power in his body, he created the strange chaotic twisting magnetic field over and over again, attempting to thoroughly grasp it before leaving.

...

In the Realm of Flame Heaven...

Nie Tian had been gone for half a month, during which the fighting between the seven great sects had already calmed down.

After ravaging the Spiritual Treasure sect, the Earth Flame Beast that had broken free from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range

forcefully charged into the heavens and disappeared, despite the interception of the Blood sect and the Ghost sect's Profound realm experts and Fang Hui.

Because of the havoc caused by the Earth Flame Beast, as well as the magma that had spewed out of the earth's core, the Blood sect, the Ghost sect, and the Spiritual Treasure sect, who were originally in a fierce fight, had no choice but stop fighting.

After that, flaming meteors had descended from the sky, respectively landing in the territories and surrounding areas of the seven major sects.

The lure of the Heaven Gate keys, as well as the urging from the Hell sect, made the Blood sect and Ghost sect give up on fighting with the Spiritual Treasure sect to the death.

With that, the bloody battle in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range came to an end. The Ghost sect and the Blood sect raced back to their own turfs to fight for the keys to the Heaven Gate.

The Spiritual Treasure sect had suffered disastrous losses, but it wasn't serious enough to reach the point of sect extermination. Therefore, as they rebuilt the sect, they also started to collect the keys to the Heaven Gate that had been branded on the meteors.

The Mystic Mist sect and Grayvale sect gained the upper hand when they first invaded the Hell sect, but were decimated when Chang Sen's wife, Kong Yun, returned to the sect.

If not for Chang Sen's interference, over half of the experts from the Mystic Mist sect and Grayvale sect might have been killed by his wife.

Not long after the Qi warriors of the Mystic Mist sect and Grayvale sect had returned to their sects with dejected faces, the Hell sect spread the word to all the other sects that the Heaven Gate... would open up in seven days.

Those who had obtained the Heaven Gate keys would be allowed to participate in the trial, no matter how they had obtained the keys or which sect they came from.

Everyone from the seven sects who had obtained the keys to the Heaven Gate seethed with excitement, and cracked their knuckles as they prepared for the trial.

The experts of their respective sects also spared no effort to prepare them and help them accumulate strength, hoping that they could make great gains within the Heaven Gate.

At this time, Wu Ji, who had also disappeared after Nie Tian entered the mysterious land, returned to the back mountain.

“There are only seven days left before the gate opens. Why hasn't the child come out yet?”

After returning and finding no trace of Nie Tian, Wu Ji frowned.

Chapter 138: Deep Love!

In the unknown mysterious land.

The sky was dusky all year long; there were no suns, stars, or moons, nor any such thing as daytime or nighttime.

Nie Tian repeated the cycle of condensing the chaotic magnetic field, gaining enlightenment from the two giant arms, and recuperating by sleeping after his psychic power was drained.

He had completely forgotten about time.

But then, one day he was suddenly awakened from his dreams by a jolt of pain.

Having yet to recover his psychic power, he felt somewhat bewildered. Once again a throbbing pain appeared, and he found that it came from the gate-shaped pattern on the back of his hand.

The tattoo-like pattern was now emanating faint light, which felt like countless fine needles piercing into his flesh.

Before now, that tattoo-like pattern had never acted oddly.

“The Heaven Gate key...” Nie Tian’s mind shuddered as he suddenly realized something.

He suspected that the reason for the sudden change of the Heaven Gate key was very likely due to the fact that the Heaven Gate was about to open.

“It seems that it’s time I left.” He rose to his feet, walked to the Flame Dragon Armor, reached out his hand, and placed his index finger on the Blood Core, which was embedded in the center chest area of the Flame Dragon Armor.

He expressed his thoughts with his soul and passed it onto the Blood Core.

The Flame Dragon Armor, which had become dull and colorless ever since entering the mysterious land, suddenly began to flicker with sparks of fire.

Those sparks of fire were like roaming stars that flowed within the armor.

FIZZ!

In the next moment, the Flame Dragon Armor gave off terrifying heat and was soon immersed in a ball of surging flames.

At the heart of the flames was a grain-sized dot of blinding light, which expanded at a rapid speed as time passed.

A gravitational force was suddenly generated!

All of a sudden, Nie Tian turned into a stream of light and flew into the bright dot.

Meanwhile, on the back mountain of Cloudsoaring Mountain...

Having been expecting Nie Tian for quite some time, Wu Ji suddenly felt something. He narrowed his eyes, and the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth surrounding the mountaintop morphed into an invisible shield.

Not even a single bit of the abnormal sounds on the mountaintop could penetrate such a barrier.

CRACKLE!

One after another, numerous spacial rifts suddenly appeared in the sky. A tiny spark of fire flickered and flew out of the rifts before turning into a tunnel of flame in the next moment.

With a loud sound, Nie Tian's figure shot out of the newly formed tunnel of flame.

CLANK!

The Flame Dragon Armor, which was still radiating raging fire and a strange aura, followed Nie Tian out of the tunnel and landed on the ground with a loud crash.

A light flashed across Wu Ji's eyes as his gaze fell on the Flame Dragon Armor.

The Flame Dragon Armor that had fallen to the ground seemed to have noticed Wu Ji's gaze, and rapidly shrunk into a small dot of fire, quickly hiding in the bracelet of holding on Nie Tian's wrist.

"It's spirituality is uncanny ..." Wu Ji seemed quite surprised.

At the same time, the spacial rifts that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere rapidly shrunk and disappeared one by one.

Traveling back from another dimension caused Nie Tian to experience a slight dizziness. After his mind cleared, he saw Wu Ji at first glance. With a brilliant smile, he said, "Master."

Wu Ji nodded gently and asked in a plain voice, "Any gains?"

Joy filled Nie Tian's face as he answered, "I've picked up two mysterious hand seals."

Wu Ji's eyes lit up. He didn't ask about the details of them, but said, "How come you came back so late?"

"There was no day or night in that dimension, so I lost track of time. Also, I didn't know when the Heaven Gate would open." Nie Tian reached out with his left hand, pointed to the gate-shaped

pattern on the back of it, and continued, “Thankfully, it reminded me. That was how I came to realize that the Heaven Gate was going to open soon and thus rushed back.”

Last time, the Blood Core took the initiative to send him back because too much of the flame power within the Blood Core had been consumed.

However, this time, the Flame Dragon Armor and the Blood Core had stored copious amounts of flame power after taking in a large amount of Earthflame Crystal Strings from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, which had allowed him to spend as much time as he wanted inside the mysterious world.

Wu Ji was taken aback. “You could receive a call from the Heaven Gate while you were in there?!”

“Yeah, I did,” Nie Tian answered.

Now that it was only two days away from the opening of the Heaven Gate, all those who had obtained Heaven Gate keys had felt the piercing pain from the gate-shaped pattern.

All of them would have known that the Heaven Gate was about to open up, even without reminders from the Hell sect.

It didn’t surprise Wu Ji that the Heaven Gate keys could remind the eligible ones that the Heaven Gate was going to open in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

What was amazing was that Nie Tian wasn't in the Realm of Flame Heaven, but rather in a mysterious dimension, which was separated from the Realm of Flame Heaven by an unknown distance, and yet he still received the reminder from the Heaven Gate key...

Wu Ji marveled at the endless secrets that lay within the Heaven Gates which appeared every so often in the Domain of the Falling Stars.

From what he could tell, every Heaven Gate key that had come from outside the realm carried mysterious spacial fluctuations so strong that they even ignored the boundless distance between dimensions!

“No wonder the Heaven Gate is considered one of the unsolved mysteries of the Domain of the Falling Stars,” Wu Ji muttered. “It’s almost time. All of the thirteen disciples of our sect who obtained Heaven Gate keys have already set off to the Hell sect, and the Hell sect promised that they won’t set up any obstructions, and will let anyone with a Heaven Gate key step inside.

“Originally, if you had come out of there earlier, I would have explained many things to you. However, we don’t have the time to do that now.

“You need to set off as soon as possible.”

With these words, he let out a cold harrumph while glancing to

the side. “What are you waiting for? Get over here.”

The low cry of the Thunder Beast, which sounded as if it felt wronged, came through from the distant sky, and soon Nie Tian could see it closing in.

“Show me the command medallion I gave you,” Wu Ji said.

Nie Tian quickly reached into his bracelet of holding and fished out the command medallion that Wu Ji had bestowed upon him to enable him to choose three items from the Spiritual Treasure sect. Then he handed it over to Wu Ji with both hands.

As soon as Wu Ji grabbed the command medallion, strong fluctuations started to ripple out from within him, as numerous dark, ghostly shadows rapidly flew out of Wu Ji’s body and merged into the command medallion.

“I just imprinted issues that require your attention into it, together with three spiritual incantations. You can make the decision yourself as to whether you want to practice them together or prioritize one of them. You can examine them with your psychic power on your way to the Hell sect.”

After that, Wu Ji passed the command medallion back to Nie Tian and emphasized, “Besides this command medallion, here are two spiritual talismans that I made. They can protect you from two attacks from most of the cultivators at the three Heaven stages. The method to use them is also within the medallion. You’ll understand when you see it.”

With these words, he handed the two triangle-shaped talismans that were made out of some kind of precious jade over to Nie Tian.

Nie Tian immediately extended his hand to receive it and said, “Thank you, master!”

Having two spiritual talismans that could protect him from two attacks from experts at the three Heaven stages would greatly increase his chance of survival within the mysterious dimension within the Heaven Gate.

“One thing to remember: I can’t say that those two spiritual talismans will keep you unscathed without fail. Because, once you step into the Heaven Gate, the opponents you’ll face won’t be limited to cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“You’ll also face talented youngsters from the other eight realms, who are stronger and have people like me to back them.

“I’m afraid that they’ll also have special treasures at their disposal, some more, some less. If you are unlucky enough to encounter them in there, then I can’t guarantee that those two talismans will keep you safe.”

Nie Tian immediately said, “I understand.”

“Here are three Ice Blast Pearls. Take them with you. They are one time usage items, and when they explode, they will instantly

send out hundreds of small ice shards. You should be careful while using them. If you don't use them right, you could very easily hurt yourself or your friends.

“Here are some spirit stones, as well as some medicinal pills. They're for emergencies, and not for the purpose of cultivating or to forcefully stimulate your potential.

“Here are...”

One after another, Wu Ji took out the items that he had prepared for Nie Tian, and handed them to him while giving his advice.

Eyes wide, Nie Tian received and put away the precious items, one after another. For the first time, he felt how lucky he was to have a powerful and loving master like Wu Ji.

Chapter 139: The Hell Sect

On the east of the Realm of Flame Heaven, in the Hell sect.

By the side of a vast lake stood a majestic city which had been made by countless huge, black stones. It was the home of the strongest Qi warrior sect of the Realm of Flame Heaven, the Hell sect.

Next to the mirror-like lake, a large number of Qi warriors were gathered and clamoring.

Each and every one of them wore garments of different colors and came from the seven major sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven, as they waited there for the Heaven Gate to open.

According to the Hell sect, the Heaven Gate would open on the isle in the center of the lake in two hours.

In the area where the Cloudsoaring sect disciples were gathered, Li Fan, Liu Yan, Jiang Lingzhu, and ten other people were standing in a circle, whispering something to each other.

Liu Yan, who had previously been trapped within the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, had a grim expression on his face as he talked idly with Li Fan. It seemed that he was low in spirits.

Luckily, both his master Wu Xing and his junior martial sister, Luo Xin, had made it back from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range

alive, and he ran into a meteor that carried a Heaven Gate key on his way back to the sect, therefore obtaining the key.

However, none of that cheered him up, since his junior martial brother, Shi Yi, had died a tragic death within the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

The person who killed Shi Yi was a Greater Heaven stage Qi warrior from the Ghost sect, who was currently standing not far from him, but he could do nothing.

Li Fan frowned and said, “Didn’t Nie Tian also get a key? How come he’s not here?”

Jiang Lingzhu shook her head and thought for a while before saying, “I don’t know, either. After he was taken away by the Thunder Beast from Black Cloud City, he stayed on the back mountain and hasn’t showed up since.”

“Could it be that martial granduncle... has other arrangements for him?” Li Fan said speculatively. “Maybe he doesn’t want him to take part in the Heaven Gate trial?”

Jiang Lingzhu thought in silence for a moment before saying, “I don’t think so. My cultivation base is the same as his, at the early Lesser Heaven stage, and my father knows just as well that the Heaven Gate trial is full of danger, yet he decided to let me go with you anyways.

“Martial granduncle has such high hopes for Nie Tian and must also know what the Heaven Gate trial will bring him. I highly doubt that he would let him give up on such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

As the Cloudsoaring sect disciples chatted with each other, An Shiyi, who was standing in a small group of Spiritual Treasure sect participants, constantly looked over, her eyes filled with anxiety.

She was also wondering why Nie Tian hadn't showed up.

The time until the opening of the Heaven Gate got closer and closer, and she was worried that Nie Tian would miss such a good opportunity.

In a place further away, Yu Tong also looked over from time to time from within a group of red-garbed experts from the Blood sect, who were continuously releasing a faint bloody aura.

However, unlike An Shiyi, Yu Tong didn't have the least bit of concern in her eyes. Instead, her eyes were full of begrudging hatred.

In a different way, she also hoped that Nie Tian would appear.

Off to the other side, Zhao Haifeng, Duan Yuan, and Hu Qingwen, who had previously appeared in Black Cloud City, also had the pattern of the Heaven Gate on the back of their hands. They also constantly turned their heads to check the Cloudsoaring

sect group.

WHOOSH!

It was at this moment when the sound of a spirit beast flying in suddenly echoed out.

When the Thunder Beast, who carried Nie Tian, flew to the territory of the Hell sect, it seemed to be frightened by something and dropped Nie Tian off in a distant place.

As soon as Nie Tian jumped off its back, the Thunder Beast flew away, seemingly unwilling to stay for another moment within the territory of the Hell sect.

When he was flying on the Thunder Beast's back earlier, Nie Tian saw the enormous city that was as big as a mountain from very far away. "The Hell sect!"

The city where the Hell sect was located was pitch-black, like a giant piece of dark, cold steel.

When he landed, he narrowed his eyes as he looked at it, and discovered that there were portraits of numerous unknown demons and ghosts carved on the city walls.

Each and every one of them was extremely lifelike. They were either letting out fierce roars, tearing apart flesh to swallow, or killing each other.

By nothing other than seeing the portraits of the demons on the stone wall, Nie Tian already felt repressed, as if the demons and ghosts... would break out of the constraints of those portraits at any moment, killing anything that they saw.

A strange idea suddenly rose in Nie Tian's mind. "Is it possible that they are actually alive?"

"Nie Tian! This way!" Li Fan waved at him from the lakeside, urging him to hurry over.

He looked over with rapt attention, and found that Li Fan was standing in a group of people, among whom were also Liu Yan and Jiang Lingzhu.

Upon seeing that Liu Yan was safe and sound, a smile immediately blossomed on Nie Tian's face.

Earlier he was directly taken to the back mountain by the Thunder Beast, and thus hadn't received any information from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Soon afterwards, he used the Flame Dragon Armor to travel to that unknown mysterious land, where he learned techniques and cultivated.

When he had returned, since he need to set off right away, Wu Ji didn't have the time to tell him everything, but rather only

imprinted the most important issues on the command medallion and gave him a few things before sending him off.

Therefore, he hadn't been clear about what happened in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range after he left and how many people survived till this moment.

Standing beside the lake, Qi warriors from the other six sects all cast their gazes towards Nie Tian, all of which had different emotions. "Nie Tian..."

Upon seeing him, a bone-piercing hatred shot out of Yu Tong's glittering eyes, as if she was going to eat him alive.

Over at the Ghost sect group, Mo Xi cunningly laughed and said to his fellow sect members in a low voice, "I can't believe that he's here too."

Duan Yuan from the Hell sect let out a cold harrumph. "He's finally here!"

Over at the Mystic Mist sect group, Zheng Bin seemed to have remembered something as he shook his head and heaved a sigh.

Over at the Spiritual Treasure sect group, a faint gladness appeared in An Shiyi's beautiful pupils.

Under the curious gazes of the crowd, Nie Tian walked along the stone path and arrived beside Li Fan and the others.

“Uncle Liu, it’s good to see you again,” Nie Tian said.

Liu Yan nodded and forced a smile as he said, “It’s good that you made it out of there too.”

“What is it? Something’s wrong?” Nie Tian inquired, seeing the strange expression on Liu Yan’s face.

“Oh, nothing.” Liu Yan didn’t explain. Instead, he said, “It’s something that happened in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. Anyways... we’re going to step through the Heaven Gate soon. Let me introduce you to the fellow sect members who are also going to participate in the trial...”

With these words, he introduced every Cloudsoaring sect disciple who was also going to enter the Heaven Gate to Nie Tian.

“Little martial uncle...”

“Greetings, little martial uncle...”

“...”

Most of these people were a lot older than him, with their cultivation bases being either in the Heaven or Greater Heaven stage. In the past, if they had visited the Nie clan in Black Cloud City, Nie Donghai and Nie Beichuan would have to personally

receive them at the clan gate.

However, times change. Willing or not, when Liu Yan introduced Nie Tian to them, they could only politely greet him.

After all, Nie Tian was Wu Ji's disciple.

After finishing introducing the participants from the Cloudsoaring sect, Liu Yan pointed towards the participants from the other six sects and started introducing them to him in a low voice.

Nie Tian only recognized a few of those people, while most were new to him.

He listened attentively, and memorized every single one of them in his heart. He knew very well that, once he stepped into the Heaven Gate, most of those people...would become his enemies.

Moreover, this trial was totally different from the Green Illusion dimension trial. In there, given they were strong enough, his opponents were allowed by rule to kill him anytime, anywhere.

On his way over, he had already read from the notes that Wu Ji had left in the command medallion that once he stepped through the Heaven Gate, he would be faced with battles, the cruelty of which might go beyond his imagination.

As Liu Yan gave the introductions, he carefully observed every

single one who had come from the seven sects.

However, he noticed that other than the participants from the seven sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven, there were also a group of people who stood alone, away from all other groups.

They had a lazy attitude as they chattered with each other and laughed. At the same time, they kept pointing at participants from the seven sects in a manner that was very impudent.

Liu Yan didn't introduce them.

Curious, Nie Tian asked, "Uncle Liu, are they also going to enter the Heaven Gate?"

Liu Yan nodded with a grim expression. He slightly lowered his voice and said, "Yes, they're not from the Realm of Flame Heaven. They're from the other realms. You see, every time, three Heaven Gates appear in three different realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars.

"However, there are nine realms in the Domain of the Falling Stars, which means six of them won't have Heaven Gates appear in them.

"Therefore, normally, experts from those six realms will spare no means to send their most talented individuals or those who have the most powerful backgrounds to the realms where Heaven Gates do appear.

“I also don’t know where those people came from, but they all came over via the Hell sect.

“They could be from the same realm, or many different realms. I don’t recognize any of them, so I didn’t introduce them to you.”

“Oh, I see,” said Nie Tian. “But how did they obtain the Heaven Gate keys?”

“Meteors that fell to the Realm of Flame Heaven covered the entire realm.” Liu Yan explained, “Some of them landed in the territories of the seven major sects while others landed in some far, uninhabited corners. When they heard about the meteor rain hitting our realm, they traveled here via inter-spacial teleportation portals, and spread out to collect Heaven Gate keys from those remote meteors.” Suddenly, Liu Yan stopped talking and his expression turned grim.

“Something’s wrong?” Nie Tian inquired.

Hatred could be seen from Li Fan’s face as he interrupted, “None of them were from the Realm of Flame Heaven, so when they fought for the Heaven Gate keys on those meteors, their means were extremely brutal and savage.

“Every one of them has their hands covered in blood. At least a hundred cultivators from our realm were butchered by them.

“Most of the dead were cultivators from the subordinate clans of the seven major sects, and they all died miserable deaths.

“Some of them were from subordinate clans of the Cloudsoaring sect.” Li Fan explained their bloody doings.

A cold look appeared in Nie Tian’s eyes. “I see.”

Chapter 140: The Heaven Gate Opens!

There was still a small period of time before the opening of the Heaven Gate.

Nie Tian stood quietly beside the clear lake and listened to Liu Yan's quiet introductions, while simultaneously measuring up his surroundings.

Every major sect of the Realm of Flame Heaven had about ten participants who came along, except for the Spiritual Treasure sect.

The majority of them were at the Heaven stage or Greater Heaven stage, with only a couple of them in the Lesser Heaven stage like Nie Tian.

Meanwhile, from the look of it, all those who had come from the other realms seemed to possess Greater Heaven cultivation bases.

It hadn't been very long since the seven major sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven faced off across the field of battle.

However to Nie Tian's surprise, Heaven Gate key holders from both sides were now gathered in this place, without any conflicts breaking out.

Of course, he had no idea that it was all because the Hell sect was controlling things behind the scenes.

An Shiyi constantly turned to look at him, her eyes filled with concern and inquiry. However, she didn't step over and talk to him, as if she harbored certain apprehensions.

Facing An Shiyi's gaze, he could only give a slight smile in response.

A short while passed...

CRACK!

A strange sound suddenly thundered out from the sky above the lake, as the cloudless sky seemed to have become an enormous piece of glass that began to shatter bit by bit.

"Here it comes!" All those who had obtained the Heaven Gate keys, including the numerous experts, who were standing atop the Hell sect's enormous city walls, had their expressions flicker as they looked up.

At this moment, Nie Tian suddenly felt that the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of his hand had become extremely hot, as if it were burning.

Nie Tian turned around to look towards the huge city behind him.

For some unknown reason, a terrifying, mixed aura of violence, frenzy, killing, and destruction seemed to have been unleashed from within the enormous city.

With a single glance at the city, his face turned pale with fear. He said, “Look, look at the city!”

The numerous portraits of demons on the city walls seemed to have been vested with life and soul, and instantly became alive.

All of a sudden, a several-dozen-meter long demon, which was covered in dark-green scales and had a with a curved horn on the top of its head, broke free from the stone wall.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Numerous long, thick chains, that had countless tiny magical symbols within them, followed it out of the wall.

Those chains seemed to have pierced into that demon’s body and were now unceasingly pulling it back toward the city wall.

Struggling and bashing the chains with every bit of its strength, the demon threw its head back and let out a soundless roar.

Even more demons seemed to have sensed the changes that were about to occur in the heaven and earth, and also let out soundless howls as they emerged from the walls, trying to escape.

However, thousands of chains that carried magical symbols followed them out from the strong stone walls. Every single chain penetrated into the bodies of the demons and continuously pulled them back into the walls.

However, the enormous city still stood tall and unmoving, as if it wasn't affected at all by the struggling of those demons.

On top of the city walls, several hundreds of experts from the Hell Sect had cold expressions, and looked at the demons with slightly mocking gazes.

From the expressions on their faces, it seemed as if they felt that all the resistance and struggling was completely useless.

Li Fan's expression slightly flickered as he looked towards the majestic city and said, "Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation! Those demons have been confined in those walls for god knows how many years. Have they also sensed the changes in the heaven and earth and want to break out of their shackles at such a time?!"

"Uncle Li, this city of the Hell sect...is actually a prison where they imprison demons?" Nie Tian asked, sounding shocked.

He had previously heard that the Hell sect was actually an enormous prison, within which were sealed demons from near and far that had once destroyed cities and plagued the people.

However, he had assumed that the prison... was hidden deep under the ground.

“You are right.” Li Fan nodded vigorously and explained to him, “That magnificent city is the ultimate prison! And the demons that you see, according to what I know, are actually the indigenous inhabitants of the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

“The indigenous inhabitants?!” Jiang Lingzhu’s expression also slightly flickered.

Li Fan smiled bitterly and said, “Exactly. The Realm of Flame Heaven originally was their home. An unknown amount of time ago, powerful, ancient, human Qi warriors traveled through the river of stars and found this place.

“Upon arriving, they started bloody battles with the indigenous demons of the Realm of Flame Heaven, which lasted decades.

“The strongest demons were killed one after another. Meanwhile, many Qi warriors, who were strong enough to travel across domains, were also torn apart and devoured by the demons.

“However, the final victory belonged to the human Qi warriors.

“The Realm of Flame Heaven has gone through countless changes throughout the years, and finally became the Realm of Flame Heaven as you know it, ruled by the seven major sects.

Looking at the numerous demons that were trying to escape from their constraints, the Greater Heaven stage Qi warriors from the other realms also seemed in awe. “Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation!”

“The strength of the Hell sect is indeed impressive and deep-rooted. If it were not for the fact that the Hell sect is situated here, the Realm of Flame Heaven... would have long since been invaded.”

“The Hell sect is indeed powerful. Not only are they able to trap such a large number of demons, but they can even continuously draw power from them.”

“However, why are the demons starting to rebel when the Heaven Gate is about to open?”

“Who knows.”

While they chatted, the cracking sounds grew increasingly loud as they came through from the sky above the lake.

Nie Tian’s attention was also attracted by the sky, and he couldn’t help but to look up.

CRACKLE!

Two long, narrow spacial rifts seemed to have been cut open by a sharp blade as they gradually appeared in the empty sky.

The two spacial rifts intersected, and blinding light suddenly shot out of the intersection point.

The light slowly transformed and gradually morphed into an enormous ball of light, which continued to fluctuate and evolve, until a pattern that was identical to the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of the hands of Nie Tian and the others gradually took shape in the sky.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

The spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth within a thousand miles radius seemed to have been affected by the spacial rifts and madly converged onto the area.

Nie Tian secretly probed the surrounding area, and discovered that all of the spiritual Qi shared the same destination: the Heaven Gate that was about to open.

“All of you who have the Heaven Gate keys, prepare yourselves! When the Heaven Gate is fully formed, a gravitational force will be generated from within the Heaven Gate, and it will directly suck you inside!”

Since the beginning, Qiao Yang, the sectmaster of the Hell sect, had never paid any attention to the rebellion of the demons within the enormous city under his feet. He looked up towards the Heaven Gate which was about to take full shape, and called out in a loud voice.

OWWW! OWWW!

At this moment, world-shaking roars rang out from within the intersection point of the two spacial rifts.

A rolling, thick, purple-black mist gradually flowed out from the spacial rifts and soon spread out to the sky above the Hell sect.

“What?!” The expressions of every powerful expert from the Hell sect suddenly flickered.

When the Qi warriors from the other realms saw the thick, purple-black mist stretching out of the long and narrow rifts of the forming Heaven Gate, they also became unsettled.

BAM! BAM!

A long, heavy chain that came out of the stone wall suddenly shattered.

Countless magical symbols that were as bright as shining stars flew out from the snapped chain, in an attempt to confine that strongest demon.

However, the demon struggled madly, as if it had been summoned by a monarch of its race. In the blink of an eye, it forcibly charged into one of the spacial rifts, despite all the

restrictions.

“This is not good!” Finally, Qiao Yang’s expression flickered. “Stop the rest of them!”

After the strongest demon escaped, the remaining demons twisted their bodies more violently, as if they had suddenly been given new power.

Nie Tian looked over with rapt attention, and saw that the purple-black mist that was leaking out of the spacial rifts had morphed into numerous running rivers, and was flowing into the trapped demons.

After allowing the purple-black mist into their bodies, the demons seemed to have suddenly been vested infinite strength, and even the chains that had penetrated their bodies were no longer able to hold them back.

One after another, numerous demons shattered their chains and broke free from the city wall, charging into the spacial rifts.

Having sensed the unfavorable situation, all the Qi warriors from the Hell sect took out their spiritual tools and tried to stop the demons.

In a flash, the sky over the Hell sect was lit up by multicolored light that had shot out of all sorts of spiritual tools.

At the same time, the Heaven Gate finally fully condensed at the intersection of the two enormous spacial rifts.

A strong gravitational force was suddenly born from within.

Everyone who had obtained the Heaven Gate keys were pulled into the air by the pattern of the Heaven Gate on the back of their hands, and one after another, flew towards the Heaven Gate.

Chapter 141: Demons Appear!

Under the attraction of the Heaven Gate Key, Nie Tian slowly rose into the air.

OWWW! ROAAAR!

World-shaking howls echoed out of the enormous spacial rifts. It seemed that demons from some unknown land outside the realm were madly summoning their kind.

Even denser purple-black mist rolled out from the spacial rifts, and flowed into the Realm of Flame Heaven.

The demons that had been sealed in the Hell sect for countless years had never given up on escaping. Their originally shriveled bodies expanded rapidly after receiving the nourishment from the purple-black mist.

As Nie Tian was pulled into the air towards the Heaven Gate, he saw a demon that was originally only several dozen meters long rapidly expanded to about fifty meters long.

All of a sudden, that demon tore apart the long chains that had bound it, and broke free of the Hell sect's imprisonment.

At the same time, a large number of enormous swords that were flickering with multicolored light instantly slashed down from midair!

CRACKLE!

The swollen demon was instantly cut into sizable pieces by the broad, long swords.

Nie Tian floated there aghast. “Are they dead?”

However, it was just a second before his eyes widened even more.

Not a single drop of blood spewed out of the demon’s torn body, and the chunks of flesh seemed to remain their vitality.

Each and every piece continued to squirm about, and rise into the sky, and eventually entered the spacial rifts where monstrous roars constantly echoed out.

Nie Tian was dumbstruck. “Even that didn’t kill it?!”

If it were a human Qi warrior like him, it would have died the moment its body was cut apart.

However, the demon maintained a vigorous life force, and even managed to escape after being cut into pieces.

Nie Tian’s expression turned incomparably serious and grim. “These demons...”

He suddenly began to feel a bit fearful towards those indigenous residents of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

As Li Fan's former comments struck him, a strange expression suddenly appeared in Nie Tian's eyes.

These strong and terrifying creatures had once dominated the Realm of Flame Heaven.

However, under the attacks of the human Qi warriors, these strong creatures had eventually lost, and been sealed within the Hell sect as prisoners for thousands of years.

What was the deeper meaning?

The truly strong human Qi warriors had never been blithely trampled upon by anyone, even outsider creatures that strong!

When Qiao Yang, master of the Hell sect, saw the demons breaking free from the constraints of the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation, his face turned as cold as ice as he shouted, "From now on, all sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven shall prepare yourselves for possible counterattacks by the demons!"

The expressions of everyone who was being pulled towards the Heaven Gate turned grim as they all felt a great burden weighing on their mind.

From Qiao Yang's words, they heard a frightening piece of information: the demons might return and attack the Realm of Flame Heaven in the near future!

According to Li Fan, the truly strong demons that had dominated the Heaven Leaving Domain in the past had long since been killed by the extremely strong Qi warriors.

The ones that had been imprisoned within the Hell sect were only the weak ones, which were nothing to be feared.

Now that thousands of years had passed, many changes had taken place and reshaped the Realm of Flame Heaven, leaving only the seven major sects, with the Hell sect being the strongest.

Most of the strong Qi warriors, who had previously descended to the Realm of Flame Heaven to fight the demons, had already passed away, and the remaining ones seemed to have long since left the realm.

With the current strength of the seven sects in the Realm of Flame Heaven, would they still have what it took to contend with the powerful demons from the other realms?

With these thoughts, Nie Tian looked over at Qiao Yang's grim face, and couldn't help but start to worry.

He worried about those who were currently in Black Cloud City, and he worried about Nie Donghai, Nie Qian, and the juniors who

he felt connected to, such as Pan Tao and Nie Xian.

He constantly had the feeling that when he tempered himself through bloody battles in the Realm of Flame Heaven, Heaven-shaking, Earth-toppling changes would occur in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Suddenly, Hua Mu's words struck him.

Hua Mu had once said that omens would present themselves in the realms where a Heaven Gate would appear, such as the escape of the Earth Flame Beast.

Furthermore, even more huge changes would strike the Realm of Flame Heaven, one after another.

The invasion of the outer-realm demons might be a possible aftereffect that Hua Mu had spoken about...

CRUNCH!

The sound of bones shattering suddenly echoed out from the Heaven Gate entrance.

“What the hell are you doing?” Zheng Bin from the Mystic Mist sect suddenly let out a piercing shout.

Nie Tian snapped back from his reverie and stopped staring at

the majestic city of the Hell sect and the demons that were breaking free from their shackles, but rather focused all his attention on the Heaven Gate that he was gradually approaching.

In front of the shining Heaven Gate entrance, a cunning smile appeared on the corner of a Greater Heaven stage outer-realm expert's mouth.

They had already reached the entrance of the Heaven Gate, but it seemed that they weren't in a hurry to enter the Heaven Gate. Instead, they suddenly started to attack other participants.

A Heaven stage Qi warrior from the Mystic Mist sect had his head chopped off by one of the foreign Qi warriors when he approached the entrance.

In the next moment, the headless corpse of the Mystic Mist sect disciple dropped to the ground.

Faces pale and ghastly, all the trial takers from the seven sects, who were floating increasingly close to the Heaven Gate, looked at those foreign Qi warriors with disbelief.

None of them expected that killings would break out even before they stepped into the Heaven Gate.

They were still in the Realm of Flame Heaven!

Those foreign Qi warriors had actually dared to defy the laws and

principles in front of the hosts, without giving any face to Qiao Yang and the Hell sect.

“How dare you!!” Qiao Yang roared, fuming with wrath.

The murderer was a slender man who carried a longsword that was wreathed in green flames. He let out a low laugh and said, “Senior Qiao, the rebellion of the demons has just started. Soon, the demons, who have already received those demons, will be able to obtain the accurate location of the Realm of Flame Heaven. Coming next, demons that are even stronger than those ones will flood your realm.

“Their arrival will turn the Realm of Flame Heaven into a hell on earth.

“By the time we come out of the Heaven Gate, the seven sects of your realm might have already been annihilated.

“Perhaps even you won’t be around by that time, Senior Qiao. Do we need to give face to a dead man?”

With these words, he laughed loudly and stepped into the Heaven Gate, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

The other participants from the other domains also had their faces full of mockery, as if they felt that the rebellion of the demons would completely reshape the Realm of Flame Heaven, and by the time they had returned, not a single one of the seven

sects would still be there.

The ones that would replace the seven sects and take over the Realm of Flame Heaven would either be the mad, bloodthirsty demons, or...the powerful cultivators who didn't have a Heaven Gate open in their realm. Whichever happened, they would no longer need to be afraid of angering the Hell sect, or suffering from Qiao Yang's wrath.

In front of the Heaven Gate, a fat Qi warrior from the Realm of Earth Sieve grinned and let out a loud laugh as he said, "Senior Qiao, I bet great experts from the Realm of Earth Sieve told you about the omens that would come along with the appearance of the Heaven Gate, but didn't tell you that the opening of the Heaven Gate would cause the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation to lose effect and cause those imprisoned demons to escape, did they?"

"But we always knew that the opening of a Heaven Gate would cause such terrifying upheavals.

"Numerous outside forces have been drooling over the Realm of Flame Heaven and waiting for the right moment to make a move.

"You thought the opening of the Heaven Gate was a great fortune to your realm, but the truth is that it's an opportunity for us that only comes around once in a thousand years.

"As soon as those demons from the outside realms wipe out the seven sects, we'll take the Realm of Flame Heaven from their hands.

“Even if you were to win by chance, you would be too weak to stop us.

“One way or another, the Realm of Flame Heaven is going to see new masters. You had better be prepared for that.”

After he finished speaking, the fat Qi warrior turned around and prepared to enter the Heaven Gate.

Standing on the majestic city with an ashen face, Qiao Yang shouted, “Kill him!”

Upon hearing his order, every expert of the Hell sect close to the Heaven Gate, including Zhao Haifeng and Duan Yuan, lunged forward in an attempt to kill him.

“What’s the rush? All of you will die in the Heaven Gate.” The fat Qi warrior gave a cold harrumph, completely ignored their attacks, and disappeared into the Heaven Gate.

After he left, the remaining foreign cultivators stared coldly at the participants from the Realm of Flame Heaven, and said, “We’ll be waiting for you all in there.”

Every one of them grinned with vicious smiles and disappeared into the Heaven Gate, as if they didn’t attach any importance to the trial takers from the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Meanwhile, Li Fan and Liu Yan's expressions turned especially grim.

The things that the foreign cultivators had said made them almost tremble with fear.

The Realm of Flame Heaven... would be attacked by dreadful demons from other realms or domains, while powerful Qi warriors from the realms where Heaven Gates didn't appear would just sit back and wait for the right moment to take over the Realm of Flame Heaven?

By the time they returned from the Heaven Gate, what would the Realm of Flame Heaven be like?

They simply couldn't believe it.

"We're not leaving!" An expert from the Hell sect shouted. "We'll stay and fight against the demons!"

"Fuck the Heaven Gate!"

"We're not going!"

After realizing what would happen to their realm, all the Heaven Gate key holders of the seven sects let out angry roars and used all their power to negate the pulling of the Heaven Gate Key.

They all decided to give up on entering the Heaven Gate.

With a cold snort, Qiao Yang blurted, “Get in there! And kill those bastards from the other realms! None of you have reached the Worldly realm, so it’ll do us no good if you stay here! You might as well make breakthroughs within the mysterious dimension in the Heaven Gate. When you return with cultivation bases that are higher than the three Heaven stages, you might be able to do your part to defend the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“Now get in there! All of you!”

BOOM!

At that very moment, an even stronger suction force came from the Heaven Gate.

It seemed that the Heaven Gate was tired of waiting.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Everyone who had been trying their best to resist the influence, including Nie Tian, was pulled into the Heaven Gate by an overwhelming force.

Chapter 142: A Mysterious Dimension in the Starry Sky

SHEW!

In the blink of an eye, Nie Tian flashed into the Heaven Gate.

Dazzling, multicolored light constantly whizzed by him as he felt himself being pulled by an irresistible force, traveling forward at an extremely high speed.

At the same time, many unknown magical symbols flashed past him like shooting stars.

Because of the incredible speed at which he was traveling, Nie Tian couldn't get a clear look at the magical symbols that flashed by.

However, from what his eyes had captured, he believed that most of them were written in foreign language that he didn't understand, with only a small portion being the masterpieces of human ancient Qi warriors.

His senses told him that he only soared within that dazzling space tunnel for several dozen seconds.

Shortly thereafter, he was overwhelmed by a squeezing force, without forewarning of any kind.

He suddenly grew dizzy, and was unable to see the things around him. His body seemed to have turned into flowing light that was thrown into an ice-cold mysterious land.

BANG!

He landed heavily on the ground, tumbling head over heels a few times over before he could gradually stop the momentum.

He opened his eyes and looked up. All he could see was a sky full of bright stars.

In his eyes, those stars were incomparably clear. They twinkled while releasing a cold, desolate light.

Some of them seemed extremely far away and only looked as big as grains of sand from where he stood.

Meanwhile, others seemed quite close to him, and were the size of grapes in his eyes.

Within the ice-cold river of stars, there was no sun or moon, only the brilliant stars that adorned the curtain of the night.

“I must be outside the Realm of Flame Heaven...” he muttered. Looking away from the sky, he turned around and measured up his surroundings.

He immediately discovered that the place he landed in was an enormous prismatic rock that was floating within the river of stars.

The rock seemed to be five or six miles long, and extended quite a ways off into the distance.

Further off, there were even more strange, enormous rocks that were floating within the river of stars. From the look of it, they probably had been that way for thousands of years.

The shapes of the enormous rocks were all different. Some of them were connected by slender stone paths and some weren't.

After looking around for awhile, he discovered that there were thousands of giant stones that were the same size as the one that he was on, but that was only what his eyes could take in.

Perhaps, there were even more rocks beyond the ones he could see.

“A dimension full of meteors?” he muttered while releasing a wisp of psychic awareness to observe his surroundings even more carefully.

In the area where his psychic awareness could cover, he didn't sense any auras of life, which meant that... there was no one in the vicinity.

He was surprised. “There’s no one anywhere near me. This seems to be quite different than the trial within the Green Illusion dimension.”

When he participated in the trial of the Green Illusion dimension, he was already with An Ying and the others from the Spiritual Treasure sect immediately after stepping into the Green Illusion dimension via the secret dimension gate. Therefore, he had been with companions and gained a rough understanding of the territory from An Ying the moment the Green Illusion dimension trial started.

However, now...

When he passed through the Heaven Gate, the mysterious power had separated everyone.

Just like him, the other disciples of the seven sects from the Realm of Flame Heaven had most likely landed on different meteors.

All of a sudden, anxiety regarding the safety of Li Fan, Liu Yan, and An Shiyi rose in his heart.

If they were unluckily sent to the same areas as the Greater Heaven stage experts from the other realms, they could be instantly killed.

WHOOSH!

An surprisingly cold gale blew over from the icy river of stars.

“This is so damn cold!”

When the cold wind blew past, he even felt his flesh turn a bit stiff and his hair and eyebrows form a bit of frost on them.

He hurriedly channeled his spiritual power to resist the coldness.

At that time, he had another startling discovery: there wasn't the slightest bit of spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the air that he could use!

All he could sense in the air was coldness, and not a single bit of spiritual Qi could be pulled into the vortex of spiritual power in his spiritual sea.

This meant that if he wanted to obtain spiritual power within this ice-cold mysterious land, the only option he had was to cultivate with the help of spirit stones.

Without spirit stones, he wouldn't be able to replenish the spiritual power that he expended.

CRACKLE!

His teeth were chattering as he unceasingly drew out spiritual power to run warm currents up and down his body.

An hour later, the ice-cold wind finally stopped.

However, he found that he had used up 20% of his spiritual power within such a short time.

He stood where he was, dumbstruck.

“Can the gravity here also be insanely strong?”

He was very well aware that an excessive gravity could also be an extremely strong load on his body.

If the gravity in this place was as strong as the mysterious land that the Blood Core had brought him to, he feared that he wouldn't be able to move about freely, much less temper himself.

With suspicion in mind, he decided to see if he could jump up.

WHOOSH!

He rose ten meters into the air!

“The gravity here is much weaker than the Realm of Flame Heaven!”

After landing, he softly tapped the stone ground and his body flew up again into midair.

Just as he was falling down, a familiar voice suddenly echoed out from afar. “Nie Tian!”

Nie Tian looked in the direction of the sound and saw Zheng Bin from the Mystic Mist sect.

Zheng Bin was also by himself, and he was currently on the side of a brown, protruding piece of rock that was about a thousand meters away from him.

Clearly, Zheng Bin had been deliberately hiding himself behind that piece of rock, as if he feared being discovered by anyone.

Only when Nie Tian jumped into the air did Zheng Bin notice him and couldn't help but shout out to him.

Zheng Bin saw that Nie Tian also noticed him, and then lowered his voice as he said, waving at him, “Hey! Watch out! Don't expose yourself!”

Nie Tian, who had just landed, softly tapped the ground, and once again his body became like cotton as he rapidly floated towards Zheng Bin.

He was the only living person that Nie Tian had seen until now.

Since the distance between him and Zheng Bin exceeded the range of his psychic awareness, he didn't sense his existence earlier. Now that he had seen him, he wanted to communicate with Zheng Bin.

Inwardly, he viewed Zheng Bin differently from Pan Tao, since he wasn't a friend who had shared trials and tribulations with him.

When they were in the Green Illusion dimension, as well as the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, Zheng Bin had repeatedly withdrawn himself when they met danger.

However, Nie Tian didn't hold a grudge against him either.

He and Zheng Bin were like strangers brought together by chance. They weren't familiar with each other, and he used to act on his own account and cause trouble for others, so Zheng Bin's unwillingness to undertake the consequences that he had caused had been understandable.

He tried to adapt to the gravitational field that was significantly different from the Realm of Flame Heaven as he floated towards Zheng Bin. Seconds later, he arrived.

After he had arrived, Zheng Bin looked anxious as he lowered his voice to warn Nie Tian, "Man! You should have kept a low profile!

“Do you know that killing is allowed between all those who have stepped into the Heaven Gate, and no punishment shall be implemented? By flying into the sky, you’ve already exposed yourself. If others have spotted you, they’ll definitely come to kill you and loot your belongings! By acting so recklessly, you’re actually putting me in danger too!”

Zheng Bin had already started to regret waving towards Nie Tian, which led Nie Tian to come over.

Nie Tian thought for a moment, and realized that what Zheng Bin said made sense. He said with a smile, “Sorry.”

Zheng Bin said nothing back, but rather concentrated on observing the surroundings silently.

Only after a while later, when he found no traces of anybody coming and believed that no one had discovered them, did he secretly let out a sigh of relief.

Zheng Bin’s expression turned grim and he explained in a low voice, “I didn’t expect this place to be completely devoid of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, which means that we have only our spirit stones to rely on to restore our spiritual power after battles.

“From now on, spirit stones, medicinal pills, and food will become necessities that people will kill for! If you want to stay alive here, you’ll need to obtain large amounts of food, spirit stones, and medicinal pills!

“This will be reason enough for any two people to start a deadly fight the moment they meet!

“Especially between people who don’t know each other!”

Nie Tian nodded. “Yeah, the same idea just occurred to me.”

Zheng Bin waved his hand and crouched his body as he led the way stealthily. “Follow me, I’ll show you something that I just discovered.”

Excitement could be seen on his face.

Confused and curious, Nie Tian followed him as he wanted to see what had made Zheng Bin so cautious and excited.

Chapter 143: Corpse of an Outsider

On the cold, hard surface of the meteor, there lay a corpse that had decayed for god knows how many years.

It had dark-green skin and was clearly not of the human race.

It even had a meter-long tail. The flesh on the tail had long since rotted away, and all that was left were pale-white bones.

The end of the tail bones were similar to a sharp fork, which pierced into the ground. Even after it had wasted away for countless years, it was still flickering with a faint green light, and there seemed to still be energy contained in it.

“Is this...” Nie Tian observed it for a long time and frowned as he said, “the body of an outsider race?”

Zheng Bin nodded and softly said, “I’ve lived in the Realm of Flame Heaven my whole life and so I’ve never seen an outsider before. However, this is clearly not a human, and he’s been dead for god knows how many years, but that tail of his still has strong energy fluctuating within.”

Nie Tian was puzzled. “Why were you so excited to show it to me?”

“The energy contained in that tail carries a strong life force, and that life force is very much beyond ordinary.” Zheng Bin quietly

scanned his surroundings again as he spoke, as if he was worried that they would be discovered. “I want to cut the tail off, but I’m a bit scared...”

“Scared?” Nie Tian asked. “It must have been dead for a long time, what’s there to be afraid of?”

Zheng Bin bitterly laughed. “I’ve already tried...

“I can’t sever that tail with my spiritual tool. Even though there is nothing but bones left in that tail, it’s still terrifyingly tough.

“You aren’t asking me to do that for you, are you?” Nie Tian shook his head and continued, “I don’t have anything that’s sharp enough, either.”

Zheng Bin looked at him with a longing expression in his eyes. “You’re Wu Ji’s disciple. Don’t tell me that your master didn’t give you a high ranked spiritual tool.”

Without any hesitation, Nie Tian shook his head again. “No.”

Before he had stepped into the Heaven Gate, Wu Ji had indeed given him many life-saving magical items, but none of them were sharp.

Wu Ji told him that since he already possessed the Spirit Channeling grade Flame Dragon Armor, all he needed to do was to be patient and take his time to establish a deep relationship with

the Flame Dragon Armor's soul. In the future, the Flame Dragon Armor would help him obtain everything that he ever wanted.

With the Flame Dragon Armor in his possession, he wouldn't need another spiritual tool.

"Oh, if you really don't have any, then fine." Zheng Bin had a face full of disappointment.

In his eyes, Nie Tian was simply reluctant to help him, and that was all.

He also was perfectly aware that he and Nie Tian weren't exactly friends, and he had even abandoned Nie Tian more than one time in the past.

In return, when he and Han Xin were trapped in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, Nie Tian and the others hadn't stopped the Thunder Beast for him on their way out of there.

Therefore, he found it quite natural that Nie Tian had adopted such an attitude.

Zheng Bin didn't say anything more. Instead, he squatted beside the tail of the outsider's corpse, and took out a sharp sword.

Unwilling to give up, he swung the sword at the tail.

CLANK!

Sparks of white and green splashed out from the tail as soon as his sword made contact with it.

Nie Tian looked closely when Zheng Bin made the attempt, and found that when his sword landed on one of the bones, the faint green light that had been flickering on the tail suddenly brightened.

A surge of mysterious energy that was filled with a vigorous life force suddenly rushed out from that bone, as if it strengthened that bone.

The slash didn't even leave a mark on the bone. Instead, Zheng Bin slightly staggered, trying his best to hold on to his sword.

He still didn't want to give up. Since he couldn't break that particular bone, he raised his sword once more and went for the other bones of the tail.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

However, every time his sword fell, those bones shone with a green light.

Every time, the green light offset the attacking momentum and the slash of Zheng Bin's sword.

By the time his sword made contact with the tail bones, the spiritual power within his sword had already worn out, and the blade seemed to have lost its edge.

“Well, that’s interesting...” Intrigued, Nie Tian narrowed his eyes as he closely examined the tail bones, pondering what method he should use to break the resistance of the strong life force of that joint.

He secretly sent a strand of psychic awareness into his bracelet of holding, with the intention to find a piece of equipment that could break the self-defense of that bone.

Unfortunately, besides the Flame Dragon Armor, he didn’t find any other spiritual tool that he could use.

And the Flame Dragon Armor was currently in a dormant mode, refining the energy it had obtained from the Earthflame Crystal Strings and healing its damages.

He wouldn’t possibly awaken it from its sleep just to try to break off the tail with it.

In addition, the Flame Dragon Armor was an extremely precious treasure of the Spirit Channeling grade, and it came from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

Both his master Wu Ji and Hua Mu had warned him against using

the Flame Dragon Armor unless it was a situation of life or death, in order to prevent the fact that he had it from leaking, which would very likely attract unnecessary attention from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

He couldn't come up with a good solution, so didn't say anything.

“You keep trying, and I'll go check the perimeter.” With these words, he separated with Zheng Bin. After hearing Zheng Bin's warnings, he no longer dared to bounce into the sky.

He tried to control his body and adapt to the gravity. With light and quick steps, he moved about on the prismatic meteor that he and Zheng Bin were on.

The meteor was only five or six miles across, and before long, he covered every inch of it. As he did it, he used his psychic awareness to scan the surroundings.

He was convinced that there was no one else on the prismatic meteor except for Zheng Bin and himself.

Not long after, he stopped by the edge of the meteor.

A slender stone protrusion, which was several hundreds of meters long, stabbed horizontally into another meteor that was even bigger than the one he was on, connecting the two.

The slender stone protrusion was only a foot wide. If he wanted

to, he could go to the other meteor via the stone path.

However, he didn't.

Previously, when the cold wind blew over, he had consumed a large amount of his spiritual power to resist the coldness.

With the lessons that he had drawn from the battles within the Green Illusion dimension, he knew that his cultivation base was low to start with. If he couldn't maintain his peak state, he would definitely suffer a terrible loss when he encountered a stranger.

Therefore, he sat down on the ground and took out the spirit stones that his master Wu Ji had given him, and with the Qi Refining Incantation, he began to restore the spiritual power that he had lost.

During the process, he took out his master's command medallion from his bracelet of holding.

When his spiritual power was fully recovered, he sent a strand of his psychic power into the command medallion to check the three spiritual incantations that Wu Ji had branded within it.

According to Wu Ji's instructions, he could choose one of them or all three of them to cultivate.

On his way to the Hell sect, he had only glanced at them for a moment due to lack of time, and didn't really read into them.

Now that he was temporarily safe in this cold, mysterious dimension, he wanted to make use of this good opportunity to quickly master a spiritual incantation, so as to raise his battle prowess.

“Flame Spirit Incantation, Illusion Spirit Incantation, Gentle Water Incantation...”

Up till now, he still hadn’t had a clue regarding his cultivation attribute, and thus didn’t know what direction his cultivation would go down in the future.

He had once asked Wu Ji about it.

According to Wu Ji, it wasn’t necessarily a bad thing if someone didn’t have a specific cultivation attribute.

People with no specific attributes could choose many types of spiritual incantations to cultivate, and they would be able to cultivate any type to a good extent.

This was the privilege that people with no specific cultivation attribute would have.

However, their disadvantages were also very obvious.

If people without specific cultivation attributes wanted to

cultivate a spiritual incantation of a certain attribute, their cultivating speed would be much slower than those with matching attributes.

Not only that, they would also need much more energy and time to comprehend the profundity of specific spiritual incantations.

For example, since An Shiyi had fire as her cultivation attribute, she would improve rapidly and achieve deep understandings of it if she were to cultivate the Flame Spirit Incantation.

If he were to cultivate the Flame Spirit Incantation, his improvement would be much slower, to the extent where he could have no hope to reach the pinnacle of fire mastery within his lifetime.

However, if An Shiyi, who possessed the fire attribute, didn't cultivate the Flame Spirit Incantation, but learned the Gentle Water Incantation instead, it would be extremely difficult for her.

Furthermore, compared to a person like Nie Tian, who had no specific attributes, learning that incantation would be countless times more dangerous, so much so that she could even fall into a Qi deviation, due to the conflict between attributes.

On the other hand, although a person with no specific attributes could cultivate all kinds of spiritual incantations, their improvement with every type of incantation would be rather slow. They might possibly be unable to comprehend the profound mysteries within those spiritual incantations over the course of

their whole life.

The lifespan of a human was limited, which would cause people with no attributes to run out their years and die due to their incapability to comprehend the deep truth of a certain attribute and break through into a higher realm.

This was also the reason that the seven major sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven would always choose youngsters who had been born with cultivation attributes as their disciples.

After that, they would pass on incantations of matching attributes to the youngsters, and let them continuously break through at a fast speed, since only in that way would they be able to increase their lifespans and thus continue cultivating.

Nie Tian thought for a moment and soon made up his mind. “The Flame Dragon Armor is definitely fire attributed, so I guess I’d better cultivate the Flame Spirit Incantation first.”

As soon as he picked the Flame Spirit Incantation as the first one to cultivate, he started to study it wholeheartedly.

Chapter 144: Cultivating Spiritual Incantations

The cultivation of every spiritual incantation that had a special attribute required a unique spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth. Of course, the Flame Spirit Incantation was no exception.

The cultivation of the Flame Spirit Incantation required the cultivator to absorb the spiritual Qi that contained flame power and slowly merge it into the spiritual sea.

The spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in many realms and domains contained energies of different attributes. For example, in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, where the Spiritual Treasure sect had been based, the spiritual energy in the air carried an intense flame power.

It was also the reason why fire-attributed Qi warriors of the Spiritual Treasure sect, as well as equipment forgers, could make use of the flame power within the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range to cultivate fire-attributed spiritual incantations.

For those who didn't have a specific cultivation attribute to practice fire-attributed spiritual incantations, the first thing they would have to do was to open up an area within their spiritual sea to contain the flame power.

Nie Tian was currently in an ice-cold river of stars far from his own realm, where there wasn't even the slightest bit of spiritual Qi in the air, much less any flame power.

Therefore, the environment was very unsuitable for him to cultivate the Flame Spirit Incantation within this ice-cold mysterious land.

Fortunately, he had previously obtained a large amount of Flame Crystals when he was in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

The level two Premium grade Flame Crystals were spirit materials that contained rich flame power, and were of a much higher rank than Flamecloud Gems.

The Flame Crystals were more than enough to be used as the energy source for his cultivation of the Flame Spirit Incantation.

WHOOSH!

A Flame Crystal that was the size of his palm flew out of his bracelet of holding as soon as he sent a wisp of will into it.

He held the Flame Crystal in his palm and realized that it was warm. Then he started to operate the Flame Spirit Incantation to pull out the flame power within the Flame Crystal.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Like scarlet strings, strands after strands of fiery aura that could be seen by the naked eye flew out of the Flame Crystal and entered

his palm.

He used the Flame Spirit Incantation to continue to channel the strands of flame power into the meridians within his hand, and then guided them to flow along those meridians into his spiritual sea.

Within his white and misty spiritual sea, the vortex of spiritual power was originally revolving at a low speed, but with the entrance of the flame power, it suddenly sped up.

A few dots of fiery light started to flicker within the white mist.

Those dots of fiery light were the flame power that he had pulled out of the Flame Crystal.

As soon as the scattered spots of flame power entered his spiritual sea, they flowed separately, not merging with the spiritual energy that was already there.

He sat in silence, sensing the process of him continuously pulling flame power out of the Flame Crystal with rapt attention.

During the process, he experienced an increasingly intense burning sensation from his meridians as the flame power flowed inside of them.

His meridians had never had flame power flow within them before, so he experienced pain during the starting period of this

process.

However, he also realized that his body was gradually adapting as the flame power flowed through his meridians.

The strands of flame power that floated out of the Flame Crystal were as fine as gossamer threads. The flame power contained within them was limited, and wasn't enough to condense and take form. Therefore, it wouldn't really burn his flesh.

Following his continuous absorption of the flame power, the light the Flame Crystal emanated... gradually turned dull.

On the contrary, within a small area in his spiritual sea, the fiery spots came together and grew increasingly condensed, quietly forming a small cluster of fire.

At first, it was only the size of a thumb. However, it seemed to illuminate his entire spiritual sea as it flickered with a bright, fiery light.

As the flame power continuously fused into it, the small cluster of fire slowly expanded.

Nie Tian used his psychic awareness to carefully protect the cluster of fire, fearing that something might happen to it.

After an unknown period of time, the small cluster of fire had expanded from the size of a thumb to the size of a fist.

CRUNCH!

It was also at this moment that the Flame Crystal in his hand suddenly shattered.

Having awoken from his cultivation, he temporarily retracted his attention from the fluctuations within his spiritual sea, and looked down to take a close look at the Flame Crystal.

The level two Premium grade Flame Crystal seemed to have completely run out of flame power.

“A level two Premium grade Flame Crystal didn’t even cause a real change to occur in my spiritual sea...” he muttered and took out another Flame Crystal from his bracelet of holding without any hesitation.

Once again, he immersed himself in cultivation.

CRUNCH!

A while later, that Flame Crystal also broke into pieces.

By that time, the cluster of fire that had formed in his spiritual sea had grown from the size of a fist to the size of two fists.

He continued cultivating with the same method and took out a

third Flame Crystal to absorb the flame power that lay within, as if he had forgotten about eating and sleeping.

In the ice-cold dimension that Nie Tian was in, there was no daytime or nighttime. All there was in the sky were countless shining stars.

He had completely lost track of time and forgot that he was currently in the Heaven Gate, participating in a cruel trial.

He was completely carried away as he practiced the Flame Spirit Incantation.

One after another, many Flame Crystals were taken out before they shattered in a short while.

When he pulled out half of the flame power within the twentieth Flame Crystal, its radiance slightly dulled, and the cluster of fire within his spiritual sea had increased in size by tenfolds, a change suddenly took place!

Suddenly, a scarlet aura started to surge about in the cluster of fire, which was already quite sizable, making it seem unsettling and disordered!

Nie Tian, who had been looking forward to a change, was elated instead of startled.

He knew that if someone like him, who didn't have a specific

attribution, wanted to cultivate a spiritual incantation of a certain attribute, they would have to condense a new vortex within his spiritual sea!

He had a similar experience when he broke through from the Qi Refining stage into the Lesser Heaven stage.

Because of that he didn't deliberately stop the disorderly surges within the cluster of fire. Quite on the contrary, he completely opened himself up and continued using the Flame Spirit Incantation to absorb the flame power within the Flame Crystal.

At that moment, he noticed that the flame power that he continued channeling into his spiritual sea went straight into the cluster of fire.

As more flame power infused into the cluster of fire, it became increasingly violent and disorderly.

He only silently sensed the changes as a bystander and didn't do anything to temper its movements.

After a moment, fiery sparks suddenly splashed out of the cluster of fire, causing a scarlet misty aura to float out of it.

When the movements within the cluster of fire couldn't get any more frenzied, the mist that contained flame power seemed to have suddenly found a law to follow and a method to operate.

He watched as the cluster of fire disintegrated while splashing out fiery sparks and spewing out burning mist. Then, it started to reshape as a vortex.

Before long, a new, small, scarlet vortex gradually took shape within his spiritual sea.

Compared to the vortex that had been completely made from the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth, the new vortex was inferior in both size and the amount of power it could contain.

The vortex of flame power was more than ten times smaller than the vortex of spiritual power.

But no matter how small it was, as long as the vortex of flame power was formed, it would expand following the infusion of more flame power.

The forming of the vortex of flame power signified that he had already completed the first and most important step in cultivating the Flame Spirit Incantation.

From now on, he would be able to use the flame power within fire-attributed spirit materials to gradually strengthen and expand his vortex of flame power.

After finishing the first step of cultivating the Flame Spirit Incantation, Nie Tian took out all of the remaining Flame Crystals from within his bracelet of holding. “Only seven Flame Crystals

are left now.”

Looking at the only remaining Flame Crystals, he secretly frowned as he realized that if he wanted to continue cultivating the Flame Spirit Incantation within this icy mysterious dimension, those seven Flame Crystals were far from enough.

At that moment, he thought of An Shiyi and Jiang Lingzhu.

The two of them had also collected a large amount of Flame Crystals when they were in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. If he could meet them and borrow a few Flame Crystals from them, he might be able to keep cultivating for a longer time.

Furthermore, he believed that no matter whether it was An Shiyi or Jiang Lingzhu, either of them would be willing to lend him some of their Flame Crystals as long as he asked for them.

Just as he was pondering, Zheng Bin quietly approached him, his expression clearly uneasy. “Nie Tian!”

Nie Tian was startled. “Something’s wrong?”

“While you were cultivating, I went to other meteors where I found many dead bodies.” A rattled look appeared in Zheng Bin’s eyes.

“Really?” Nie Tian asked. “More dead outsiders?”

Zheng Bin promptly shook his head and said somewhat panickedly, “No, not outsiders! They were dead human Qi warriors! Two of them were from the Mystic Mist sect, and both of them had Heaven stage cultivation bases!

“The rest seemed to be disciples of the Blood sect and the Ghost sect! And the person who had the highest cultivation base seemed to have been in the Greater Heaven stage!

“Their bodies were all as cold as ice. They must have been dead for some time when I found them. Everything they had was looted, including their bracelets of holding.

“I bet that those from the other realms have already started to make moves against us.

“It probably won’t be long before they find us!”

Fear filled Zheng Bin’s eyes.

“Which meteor are you talking about?” Nie Tian asked with a grim face.

Zheng Bin raised his arm and pointed toward a distant, giant meteor that was separated from them by six meteors. “That one.”

Nie Tian took a glance at it and calculated in his heart. He

believed it would take at least a few hours to get to the meteor that he was on from that one.

His face suddenly turned as dark as the deepest ocean.

Chapter 145: Crisis Approaches

On an enormous meteor within the icy river of stars, a fat man from the Realm of Earth Sieve had a cunning grin on his face as he let out a vicious laugh.

There were three bracelets of holding in his chubby, short-fingered left hand. He was transferring each and every item inside of them into his own bracelet of holding.

Lying right next to him were three gray-garbed people, who, from the way they were dressed, were clearly Qi warriors from the Grayvale sect.

Two of them were in the late Heaven stage and one was in the early Greater Heaven stage.

All three of them had their heads separated from their bodies and their severed parts were scattered on the brown surface of the meteor. From the look of it, they had died not long ago.

The fat man from the Realm of Earth Sieve was named Jia Peng. After he transferred all the items into his own bracelet of holding, he shook his head, and his small, round eyes flickered with a disdainful, cold look. “Killed another three.

“It’s hard to believe that the Grayvale sect is one of the seven major sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven. They’re so surprisingly weak.

“I’m afraid a sect this weak can only survive in the Realm of Flame Heaven. If such a weak sect were in the Realm of Earth Sieve, it would have long since been annihilated.

“That Hell sect clearly has the power to wipe out the other six sects and take over the entire Realm of Flame Heaven, but they chose not to. It seems that they’re merely using the other six sects as playmates for their juniors.

“Apparently, only trial takers from the Hell sect will be strong enough to interest me.

“ ... ”

He muttered to himself while releasing a wisp of his psychic awareness to scan his surroundings for signs of life.

“Okay, it’s done. I’ve already finished off everyone on this meteor. It’s time to move to another one.”

With these words, his ball-like, fat body suddenly shot up into the air and headed towards a nearby meteor.

It seemed that he had absolute confidence in his own strength. It was as if he was not scared of exposing himself by jumping so high into the air.

In his eyes, only those foreign cultivators who he knew quite well would be considered as worthy opponents for him.

The few of them had already reached a mutual understanding before they traveled to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

The elders of the sects that they belonged to had already spoken privately with each other. They viewed the Realm of Flame Heaven as their target, and prepared to gradually carve up the Realm of Flame Heaven after the demons' invasion.

Their sect elders had even come up with a detailed plan regarding how to divide their territories in the Realm of Flame Heaven in the future.

This was also why they dared to behave so recklessly and even bring out their future intentions with the Realm of Flame Heaven before they stepped into the Heaven Gate.

In their eyes, the opening of the Heaven Gate had actually heralded the doom of the seven major sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

...

On the prismatic meteor.

After hearing Zheng Bin's words, Nie Tian had a serious expression on his face as he cautiously examined the enormous

meteors in the distance.

A distant, hexagon-shaped meteor that was much bigger than the one they were standing on was the limit of his sight.

A vague figure that he couldn't catch a clear glimpse of, suddenly shot into the sky.

That figure was Jia Peng!

Nie Tian's expression slightly flickered. "Over there! Someone just jumped into the air. By acting so recklessly, he clearly isn't afraid of being noticed by those who are lurking in the dark. He must be very confident about himself. If I'm not mistaken, that man... is a cultivator from another realm."

Confusion is written all over Zheng Bin's face. "Where? I don't see anything."

Nie Tian carefully pointed toward the meteor and explained to Zheng Bin, "There. That hexagonal meteor. How can you not see it?"

"I can only vaguely see the outline of that meteor, but I don't see anyone leaping into the air." Zheng Bin shook his head before suddenly coming to a realization. "Your eyesight must reach farther than mine."

Nie Tian was taken aback by his words.

Since he had always been different from the children he grew up with, adding on that he had been tempered by Hua Mu, it was only natural that his vision, hearing, and probing ability surpassed Zheng Bin's.

What he could hear, see, and sense, might not be achievable to Zheng Bin.

“That man is wandering around. I bet he is searching for people like us.” Nie Tian's face turned grim while his eyes were still fixed on the fat man. He continued, “Sooner or later, he'll come to our meteor to search after finishing searching the other ones.

“Every foreign trial takers has a cultivation base of the Greater Heaven stage. As long as they release their psychic awareness to search for us, we won't be able to hide, no matter what we do.

“The moment he comes, we'll be exposed, and have nowhere to retreat to.” Nie Tian replied in a deep voice.

Scared, Zheng Bin turned around to look at a few meteors that were floating in the starry sky behind him. “How about we go that way? However, you should know that when I went to check those meteors earlier, there were also quite a few dead bodies on them.”

Nie Tian shook his head and said, “There isn't a place where we can remain safe forever. Once those Greater Heaven stage experts kill off all the weak ones near them, they'll gradually reach out into their surroundings in search of more to kill.

“If we escape in that direction, it will be very likely that we run into other Greater Heaven experts.

“Moreover, the man coming our way is moving at a speed that is much faster than ours, so even if we don’t encounter anyone else on our way, that man will eventually catch up to us.

“We might as well stay here, and when he gets here we fight him to the death!” Nie Tian said with a decisive expression.

“But...” Zheng Bin said with a painful look on his face. “You and I only have the cultivation bases of the early Lesser Heaven. With our strength, there’s absolutely no chance of us escaping from the hands of a Greater Heaven stage expert.

“Only by joining hands with the other Greater Heaven stage experts from the other sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven, will we have a narrow chance of surviving.

“However, the thing is we don’t know where they are...”

Nie Tian frowned and said with great determination, “Whatever your decision is, I’m going to stay and fight. Standing your ground is better than running off and trying to find other ways to win.”

With these words, he turned away from Zheng Bin, and focused on the gradually approaching man, making plans in his heart.

Fifteen minutes later.

That previously vague figure became clearer, due to the shortening of the distance .

Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian took a deep breath and said, “It’s that fat man, the one from the Realm of Earth Sieve. He claimed that every single trial taker from the Realm of Flame Heaven would die in here, right before he stepped into the Heaven Gate.”

Since the distance between them had shortened, Zheng Bin was now able to see a figure continuously shooting into the air like a cannonball.

However, he could only see the frame of the person and was unable to see his face and tell that person’s identity.

When he realized that the person was none other than the fat man who had made those harsh remarks in front of the Heaven Gate, Zheng Bin was astonished. “That guy appears to be at the middle Greater Heaven stage!”

Nie Tian looked over at Zheng Bin with a confused expression.

“Since we arrived at the Hell sect early, I secretly poked around and gathered some information,” Zheng Bin hastily explained. “That fat man’s name is Jia Peng. He’s from the Realm of Earth Sieve, and has a cultivation base of the middle Greater Heaven. Plus, he has a powerful background.”

“Middle Greater Heaven stage...” Nie Tian muttered to himself and nodded as he said, “You don’t need to mind me. Leave if you want, I won’t blame you.”

After saying these words, he fell back into silence, calculating the time that Jia Peng would take to arrive. He was already preparing himself for the upcoming battle.

The first thing that came to mind was the chaotic magnetic field technique he had learned from the mysterious land.

Since it didn’t affect him, he had yet to know what kind of effect that magnetic field would have on people.

However, he had a faint feeling that the chaotic magnetic field, which required an enormous amount of psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power to condense, would definitely have a special use.

Looking at Nie Tian, who was prepared to stand his ground, Zheng Bin looked extremely hesitant, as if he was fighting an inner war in his heart.

He had abandoned Nie Tian twice; once in the Green Illusion dimension and once in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Both times, he had deemed that Nie Tian would be killed beyond the shadow of a doubt.

However, both times, Nie Tian had managed to survive at the end, and he even came out almost unscathed.

Now he was faced with a choice again. Leave Nie Tian be? Or fight side by side with him?

He looked deeply at Nie Tian.

On his face, he didn't see the slightest bit of panic. Graveness and toughness was all there was.

Nie Tian slowly adjusted his breathing. Within his eyes, there seemed to be...a trace of excitement and expectancy.

Not only did Jia Peng's arrival not destroy Nie Tian's confidence, it seemed to have actually aroused his fighting spirit!

A stern look could be seen on Zheng Bin's face as he suddenly said, "I'll fight with you!"

He finally made a different decision when he was faced with the same choice again.

"Okay, good." Nie Tian replied without much thinking. "Move slightly away from me. I need to make some preparations." After that, he held his hands in front of him, palms facing each other, and started to mobilize his psychic power, spiritual power, and

flesh power.

He started to form the mysterious, twisting magnetic field.

Chapter 146

Nie Tian held his hands in front of his chest, palms facing each other, as he condensed his psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power to start expanding the chaotic, twisting magnetic field outwards with himself as the center.

An abnormal surge was gradually born in between his palms.

Once that surge was created, it rapidly spread out towards its surroundings like water ripples.

“What?!” Zheng Bin, who was now standing several meters from him, widened his eyes in the instant that he sensed the strange energy surge.

“One meter, two meters...” Nie Tian quietly counted in his heart as he acutely sensed the range that the magnetic field had covered.

At that moment, he realized that even though Zheng Bin kept a distance from him, he was still within a five meters radius.

Nie Tian slightly frowned and gave him a meaningful look to indicate for him to move away a bit further.

After receiving his indication, Zheng Bin stepped back without the slightest hesitation.

A trace of seriousness appeared on Zheng Bin's face.

Actually, he didn't need Nie Tian's indication. He had already prepared to move further away the moment he sensed that something wasn't right.

Following the gradual extension of the twisting magnetic field, he... was already trembling with fear even before the magnetic field had enveloped him, as his instincts had already told him that something was brooding in the area.

When the magnetic field was generated, Zheng Bin unleashed a strand of his psychic power in an attempt to probe into the mysteries within the magnetic field.

However, the second his psychic power entered that magnetic field, Zheng Bin experienced a sudden twinge of pain in his head and momentary dizziness.

It felt as if his soul was being wrung by an unknown force.

That feeling scared him into stepping backwards in the instant that Nie Tian indicated that he should.

After he distanced himself ten meters away from Nie Tian, his eyes flickered with a strange light as he fixed his gaze on Nie Tian.

However, he no longer dared to release his psychic power to pry into the secrets of that magnetic field.

“Five meters!”

Soon, the magnetic field that Nie Tian had formed with his psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power reached a five meters range coverage.

However, it still wasn't Nie Tian's limit.

If he wanted to, he could continue to fuel it with his psychic power and further extend the range of the magnetic field to ten meters!

However, by doing that, he would be exhausted of almost all his psychic power, and wouldn't have enough psychic power to use the items that his master had bestowed upon him, when Jia Peng arrived.

Therefore, he maintained the five meter range.

However, just as he was about to stop expanding the magnetic field, he suddenly felt a change in his spiritual sea.

Gradually, strand after strand of flame power flowed out of the small vortex of flame power in his spiritual sea.

The flame power quietly entered his meridians, flowed to his palms, and infused into the magnetic field.

After receiving the strands of flame power, the originally disordered magnetic field immediately became even more violent and chaotic!

It was only a small amount of flame power. However, after it was added to the magnetic field, it seemed to have greatly enhanced the power of the magnetic field!

“What is this?” Surprised, Nie Tian probed into the magnetic field with his soul, and started pondering.

“The reason why the magnetic field has been disordered is that it is formed by my psychic power, flesh power and spiritual power. Three different types of power merging and interweaving with each other is what made the magnetic field violent.

“However, although the spiritual power and flame power share the similar origin, they have their unique features and attributes.

“Strictly speaking, the flame power should be considered as a fourth type of power.

“Only a small amount of flame power managed to massively increase the might of the magnetic field. Does this mean that...the power of the magnetic field will continue to increase if I add in more different types of power?”

He soon grasped the secrets of the magnetic field.

“Since I don’t have an attribute myself, I can cultivate many more spiritual incantations with a variety of attributes.

“Every spiritual incantation of a different attribute can be considered as a different type of power at my disposal. If I infuse the many different types of power into the magnetic field, wouldn’t it increase the might of the magnetic field to an even greater extent?”

His eyes lit up as he found a method to continuously increase the might of the magnetic field.

At that moment, Jia Peng from the Realm of Earth Sieve once again launched his corpulent body into the air.

As Jia Peng moved even closer to them, Zheng Bin finally had a clear view of the man’s face. “It’s him indeed!”

There were a number of scattered stones around Nie Tian and Zheng Bin. The two deliberately crouched down, so that Jia Peng wouldn’t be able to see them from the air.

Nie Tian took a deep breath and immediately cleared his mind. “He’s almost here.” Without any hesitation, he took out two items from his bracelet of holding.

The first was a talisman that could be used as a life-saving item, and the second was a translucent, sparkling Ice Blast Pearl that

unceasingly released a frosty aura.

According to Wu Ji, the talisman could neutralize one all-out attack of a late Greater Heaven expert, and thus save his life.

He only had a total of three talismans and similar to the Ice Blast Pearl, they were all single-use items. He should not use it unless it was a crucial moment.

After all, Jia Peng was a middle Greater Heaven stage expert. Nie Tian didn't have the confidence to survive his attacks if he didn't use a talisman.

Moreover, it would be the first time that he used the chaotic, twisting magnetic field on someone. He wasn't sure how powerful it would be and whether he would be able to block Jia Peng's attack with it.

He also wasn't sure what kind of damage the Ice Blast Pearl would inflict on the enemy. Hence, he decided to cast it out the moment Jia Peng entered the attacking range of the Ice Blast Pearl.

SHEW!

The rotund Jia Peng once again landed and bounced forward.

Meanwhile, Jia Peng's psychic awareness was like a densely-knit net, stretching outward into his surroundings.

With his middle Greater Heaven cultivation base, the range of his psychic awareness far surpassed Nie Tian's.

"Well, finally, some life auras." Jia Peng grinned, as a merciless excitement shot out of his small eyes.

Looking coldly at the prismatic meteor that Nie Tian and Zheng Bin were on, he disdainfully said, "Do you really think hiding behind rocks will work? Entering the Heaven Gate with only Lesser Heaven cultivation bases, you must have a death wish."

Muttering, Jia Peng's wobbling body directly charged towards the area that Nie Tian and Zheng Bin were at.

"He's coming at us," Zheng Bin reminded Nie Tian in a low voice.

"Yeah," Nie Tian nodded and said, "Zheng Bin, move slightly further away and maintain a fifty meter distance from me! I haven't tested the power of the Ice Blast Pearl that my master gave me, so I fear that I might hurt you."

Zheng Bin was astounded and hurriedly moved backwards, as if he had heard how powerful the Ice Blast Pearl was before.

Seeing that Jia Peng was charging directly at them, Nie Tian realized that they had already been exposed.

He stopped being secretive, he confidently walked out from behind the big rock, directly facing Jia Peng.

Seconds later, Jia Peng's sinister, cunning laugh echoed out.

The fat on his face trembled with excitement. "No matter where you came from, by stepping into the Heaven Gate with Lesser Heaven cultivation bases, you'll be at the bottom of the food chain. There is only one road open to you two: the road to extinction."

BOOM!

The fat Jia Peng suddenly accelerated, and whistled over like a human cannonball.

One after another, threads of yellow light splashed out from within him from time to time, which seemed to allow him to counter the gravity to greatly stall the descending of his soaring body .

"Earth attribute, earth power!" With a single glance, Nie Tian could tell that Jia Peng's cultivation attribute was earth, one of the five fundamental elements.

People who cultivated earth-attributed spiritual power could alter gravity for themselves.

Furthermore, the gravity in such an icy starry sky far away from the Realm of Flame Heaven was much weaker to start with. All

these factors allowed Jia Peng to remain in the air for a long time!

When Jia Peng was only a hundred meters away from him, Nie Tian suddenly hurled out his tightly gripped Ice Blast Pearl.

SHEW!

The Ice Blast Pearl turned into a beam of cold light that seemed to trail with a white, icy tail as it shot towards Jia Peng.

Nie Tian had already imprinted a wisp of his psychic awareness inside the Ice Blast Pearl. When the Ice Blast Pearl was about to reach Jia Peng, a fierce fighting spirit rose in his heart as he cried out, “Explode!”

In the next moment, the Ice Blast Pearl that was glistening with an icy light instantly shot out tens of thousands of icy light beams.

Countless icy shards and icy blades also shot out from that small Ice Blast Pearl, completely filling the area that Jia Peng was in.

CRUNCH!

Immediately after, the bright icy shards and icy blades seemed to form a tornado, which soon escalated into an ice storm that engulfed Jia Peng.

ROOOOAR!

Within the icy storm, Jia Peng screamed like a dying pig as the skin on his fat body was instantly split open.

Chapter 147: Chaotic Force!

The whirling ice shards and ice blades turned into an enormous ice storm, filling the entire sky.

In the center of the storm, Jia Peng's body was dripping with blood as pieces of torn flesh flew out from his body.

“Ice Blast Pearl!”

Nie Tian's expression flickered as he became somewhat fearful towards the power that was released by the seemingly insignificant, cold pearl.

It was only the size of a fist. However, it had shot out tens of thousands of bright, glittering ice shards and ice blades after exploding.

Not only were they incomparably sharp, but they also contained an formidable frost power!

Furthermore, it seemed that since the starry river was cold and desolate, the Ice Blast Pearl was able to display its power to the fullest.

Even though Jia Peng, who was in the middle Greater Heaven stage and cultivated earth-attributed spiritual incantations, was still a hundred meters away from Nie Tian, his whole body had already been badly mangled.

A faint smile appeared at the corner of Nie Tian's mouth. "The things that master has prepared for me are indeed awesome!"

Looking at Jia Peng, who was screaming miserably within the ice blast, he was secretly elated.

Zheng Bin, who was standing off to the side, was also astonished after seeing the damage that the Ice Blast Pearl had dealt.

He had heard of the terrifying might of Ice Blast Pearls, but never had he seen one in person.

This time, the ice storm that was caused by the Ice Blast Pearl made him truly understand why it had such a terrifying reputation.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Just as Nie Tian secretly smiled, an ash-yellow aura suddenly wreathed Jia Peng, who was in the middle of the ice storm.

The aura consisted of Jia Peng's earth-attributed spiritual power, which was strong and intense.

CRACK! CRACK!

The frost power of the ice storm interwove with the ash-yellow

aura, causing an ear-piercing noise to echo out.

Although Jia Peng was wailing like a ghost, and had sustained quite some damage, he gradually stabilized himself.

It seemed that the rock-solid power he unleashed forcefully changed the gravitational field around him.

By the time the gravitational force suddenly doubled, the ice storm that was hovering in midair abruptly dropped down.

The strange feeling of space caving in suddenly appeared in Nie Tian's mind, making him realize something was going to happen.

It was also at this moment when the small eyes of Jia Peng suddenly glared at Nie Tian as he temporarily broke free due to the ice storm sinking.

SHEW!

In the next moment, his fat body became completely unaffected by the bindings and effects of the ice storm.

His blood uncontrollably dripped to the ground. All of a sudden, he dashed towards Nie Tian, with those drops of blood resembling a drizzle of bloody rain.

“Die!” Jia Peng roared. He was like a caged beast that was on the

verge of dying as he madly charged over.

At that moment, the ice storm behind him gradually dissipated, as if it had already worn out all of its power during the extremely short period of time.

Standing quite a distance away, Zheng Bin's expression suddenly flickered as he couldn't help but cry out to warn Nie Tian, "Be careful, Nie Tian!"

"Okay," Nie Tian answered. He had already been secretly making preparations. His palms were already facing each other and the air in between his hands was already changing due to the hand seal.

He knew perfectly well that he had just recently learned the Flame Spirit Incantation, and it was almost impossible for him to hurt Jia Peng with it.

Out of all the techniques at his disposal, the chaotic, twisting magnetic field might be the only one that could affect Jia Peng. After using the Ice Blast Pearl, the next thing to do was to further wear out Jia Peng.

Besides that, there was still the most explosive technique that he could use: the rage fist strike!

He was already secretly gathering his power. He was just waiting for Jia Peng to charge into the chaotic, twisting magnetic field, and then strike him with it when he was affected.

WHOOSH!

Nie Tian was enveloped in a magnetic field that was formed by the mixture of psychic power, spiritual power, flesh power, and flame power. It was growing increasingly violent and disorderly.

Meanwhile, the magnetic field seemed to be adjusting itself according to Nie Tian's mental state.

SHEW!

Jia Peng's fat body finally streaked across the sky and plummeted to the ground with a loud crash.

“Earth's Core Fission!”

As he let out a loud cry, numerous beams of ash-yellow light that resembled drifting ribbons flew out from his ten fingertips.

Those light beams seemed to carry a strange energy that could change gravity and evoke enormous changes within the earth's core.

However, as soon as they entered the endlessly twisting magnetic field surrounding Nie Tian, all of the light beams disappeared!

Not only that, but an additional type of power was added to Nie

Tian's chaotic, twisting magnetic field.

Apparently, that power came from the ash-yellow light, which was none other than Jia Peng's earth-attributed spiritual power.

Strands of ash-yellow light aura started to interweave with all the different types of power within the twisting magnetic field.

Not only did the newly entered energy not calm the magnetic field, it even fueled its frenzy!

“What?!” After landing heavily on the ground, Jia Peng suddenly felt that he had lost connection with the spiritual power that he had unleashed.

When he found that he could no longer fight the gravity and uncontrollably descended toward the ground, a slight fear rose in Jia Peng's heart.

Jia Peng's expression flickered as he sensed the danger. “What is that!?”

He tried his best to remain the air, but failed.

He wasn't a rash person. When he sensed the unfavorable situation, he instinctively wanted to withdraw.

Unfortunately, when he approached the area above Nie Tian, he

lost control of the gravitational field, which had never happened in the past!

The earth-attributed spiritual incantation he had cast was unable to alter gravity, not even in the least bit!

BOOM!

His fat body followed its previous trajectory as he fell into Nie Tian's twisting magnetic field.

POOH!

In the moment he entered, Jia Peng's expression turned pale as he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Even though he was in the middle Greater Heaven stage, as soon as he entered the magnetic field, he realized that his abundant and strong psychic power seemed to have been completely manipulated by the twisting magnetic field!

Affected by the the turmoil of the magnetic field, the psychic power within his mind seemed to have also become frenzied and disordered.

He had a feeling that the numerous strands of his psychic power were being forced to intertwine together, and become tighter and tighter as time passed!

Possessing a Greater Heaven cultivation base, his psychic power far surpassed Nie Tian's. This was originally one of the sharp weapons that he could use to completely overtake Nie Tian.

However, now his significant advantage in psychic power had become his burden!

His head felt like it was about to split and his mind was twisted into a muddle. Even blood gradually seeped out of his mouth, eyes, nose, and ears.

ROOOAARRRR!!

Jia Peng madly roared out as he unleashed ash-yellow spiritual power blasts that resembled arrows in every direction.

However, once those sharp arrows of spiritual power left him, they were affected by the chaotic, twisting magnetic field.

All of the spiritual power blasts were pulled by an unknown force to fly disorderly within the magnetic field, causing the berserk magnetic field to become increasingly terrifying!

Jia Peng discovered that he had thoroughly lost control of himself.

Not only his psychic power, but even his spiritual sea had become

frantic and chaotic, as if he had completely fallen prey to the magnetic field.

When he discovered that the Earth Spears that he had released were unable to even reach Nie Tian, he chose to focus all his energy on controlling his spiritual sea, no longer daring to make any rash moves.

He attempted to gradually adapt himself to the strange magnetic field.

“Hmm?” Nie Tian, who was prepared to blast out the rage punch at any moment, saw that Jia Peng was bleeding from his seven apertures. Unexpectedly, he didn’t strike at the first possible moment.

He thought to himself that even though Jia Peng had a cultivation base of the middle Greater Heaven stage, he started bleeding from his seven apertures in the instant that he fell into the magnetic field.

Furthermore, the ash-yellow spirit force blasts that Jia Peng unleashed were also affected by the magnetic field and started to fly about disorderly.

Jia Peng’s attack didn’t affect him at all, while Jia Peng himself... seemed to have gradually lost control of himself.

He wasn’t in a hurry to make a move because he knew that he

would be left powerless once he cast the terrifying fist strike with all his strength.

Since he was in a starry river far away from the Realm of Flame Heaven, danger could be lurking anywhere, and Zheng Bin hadn't fully obtained his trust.

He intended to preserve his strength as long as he could. Before Jia Peng could post a threat to him, he wasn't anxious to make a move.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Standing within the chaotic, twisting magnetic field, Jia Peng glared at Nie Tain. He had already attempted many methods to adapt to that magnetic field.

However, the various methods that he had thought of had all been proven unable to resist or adapt to the magnetic field.

Finally, he gave up.

The anguish in his head gradually grew beyond his tolerance. Even more blood flowed out of his mouth, nose, and ears.

He suddenly bit on the tip of his tongue in an attempt to use the piercing pain to keep himself sober. He used all his strength to trudge backwards as he tried to leave that strange magnetic field.

Seeing through Jia Peng's intentions, Nie Tian finally approached him with a cunning grin. "Do you want to leave now?"

Yet he still didn't plan to strike him. Instead, he wanted to test the might of the magnetic field via Jia Peng and dig into the true mysteries that lay within.

Since Jia Peng wasn't able to attack him, he could continue to watch and sense the chaos within the magnetic field more closely.

At that moment, he became increasingly eager to learn the profound truths of the magnetic field.

"Don't leave so soon. Now that you are here, we should spend some time and talk," Nie Tian teased as he slowly approached Jia Peng, before stopping in front of him and blocking the way he had attempted to escape in.

Chapter 148

“Get the hell away from me!” Jia Peng’s expression was sinister as his face was covered in blood. Blood unceasingly flowed out from his mouth, nose, and ears.

By this point, he was truly terrified of the chaotic magnetic field.

He discovered that he couldn’t resist it at all. No matter how hard he tried to control himself, he couldn’t counter the influence of the magnetic field.

Thus, he had no choice but to escape as quickly as possible.

However, when he tried to run away, Nie Tian, the youngster he originally attached little importance to, unexpectedly had the audacity to stand in his way.

His bloodshot eyes were brimming with frenzy and wrath.

“Hmm?!” Nie Tian softly hummed as a light of excitement appeared within his eyes. Then, he started to laugh.

He just made another discovery.

As time passed, the chaotic magnetic field that was originally five meters in diameter had already shrunk to a range of three meters.

The three meter range was already slightly unsafe, since Jia Peng, who found it hard to move away from Nie Tian, was only barely enveloped by it.

However, he surprisingly discovered that the three-meter magnetic field could move along with him as he walked to block Jia Peng's way out.

Meanwhile, the three meter radius didn't change as he moved about.

When Nie Tian approached Jia Peng, the chaotic magnetic field that surrounded him followed his steps.

Due to the shift in Nie Tian's position, Jia Peng, who was about to leave the magnetic field, was once again in the center of it!

The magnetic field would always be centered around Nie Tian. As long as he moved, the magnetic field...would also shift with him.

Such a discovery made him seethe with excitement. This meant that once he created the magnetic field, he wouldn't have to remain in his original location.

He would be able to move around freely and fight his opponent, since the magnetic field would always follow him.

Nie Tian couldn't stop grinning. "This is awesome!"

All of a sudden, he reached out toward Jia Peng's neck, which was already within arm's reach.

Bright spirit auras flowed out from his five fingers, and his arm was gradually filled with surging flesh power as veins bulged from it.

His whole arm was full of terrifying power.

“Screw off!” Jia Peng roared madly. At the same time, a layer of ash-yellow spiritual aura suddenly floated out to envelop him.

“Earth Shield!” The ash-yellow spiritual power carried strong and rich earth power as it formed a protective shield around him.

Considering his Greater Heaven cultivation base, Jia Peng believed that the protective shield was tough enough to withstand any attack from a Lesser Heaven stage cultivator.

Let alone Nie Tian who was only in the early Lesser Heaven stage!

FIZZ! FIZZ!

However, as soon as the shield was formed, it was distorted by the chaotic magnetic field.

The power within the shield was instantly torn into pieces and turned into ash-yellow motes of light that soon dissipated within the magnetic field.

The protective screen that Jia Peng spent great amounts of energy to create disappeared in the blink of an eye.

At that moment, Nie Tian's hand irresistibly and firmly grabbed onto Jia Peng's neck.

He tightened his fingers forcefully.

He had hoped to hear the sound of bones shattering, but didn't. Instead, it felt as if he were gripping a metal pillar.

“What?!” He was secretly astonished.

However, it was just a second before he realized what was happening.

Jia Peng's neck suddenly unleashed a surge of ash-yellow spiritual power, which forcefully entered Nie Tian's hand and travelled upward into his arm.

In seconds, his arm became as heavy as a huge rock that weighed a thousand tons, making it powerless.

His joints even made faint creaking noises, seemingly unable to

withstand the enormous weight.

“Hey!” A savage smile appeared on Jia Peng’s blood-covered face. “Do you really think that you can kill me with your early Lesser Heaven cultivation base? If not for this strange magnetic field, then considering your puny strength, I could have killed you with a single strike!”

BOOM!

An even heavier surge of power forced it way into the hand that Nie Tian had used to grip Jia Peng’s neck, as unstoppable as a hot knife cutting through butter.

Nie Tian’s hand instantly drooped downwards, and he became unable to raise it.

The earth power that Jia Peng sent into Nie Tian’s arm went berserk inside of him, madly ravaging his flesh and meridians.

Nie Tian let out a muffled groan as he suffered a great blow. Therefore, he started to use all his strength to rid himself of Jia Peng’s earth power.

He also realized that Jia Peng...had just tricked him.

Jia Peng always knew that the shield he created wouldn’t be able to persist within the magnetic field.

It was only a pretense to throw Nie Tian off guard.

He didn't use much earth power to create the shield. His true power was all gathered on his neck.

He was waiting for Nie Tian to grab his neck so that he would be able to channel his devastating power into Nie Tian's hand via contact!

He didn't move at all. However, he managed to successfully harm Nie Tian within his chaotic magnetic field.

Jia Peng madly laughed with a cunning expression in his eyes. "Little bastard! You're still too green!"

Looking at Nie Tian, who was painfully resisting the earth power that had entered his body, Jia Peng once again started to move away with great difficulty, with no regard to the blood that was still dripping down his face.

He was only one more step from escaping from the chaotic magnetic field.

"Almost there!" Jia Peng rejoiced in his heart.

He was sure that once he escaped from the effects of the strange magnetic field, he would be able to instantly kill Nie Tian from a

safe distance!

However, just as he was about to succeed, Zheng Bin from the Mystic Mist sect waved his sword as he pierced towards him.

CLANG!

The tip of the sword directly struck the middle of Jia Peng's back, causing ash-yellow dots of light to splash out from his back.

However, the sword failed to pierce into Jia Peng's back. Instead, it was sent flying by a strong counter force.

Eyes brimming with a murderous aura, Jia Peng turned around. "Brat, you're courting death!"

He now planned to finish off Zheng Bin first after getting out of the magnetic field.

On the other hand, when Nie Tian sensed that something wasn't right, he had already taken out the spiritual talisman that his master had given him from his bracelet of holding. He was prepared to receive Jia Peng's revenge at any time now.

At that moment, Nie Tian suddenly went blank watched Zheng Bin dashing toward Jia Peng with an ash-gray skeletal tail. Apparently, he hoped that the sharpness of the tail would be enough to pierce Jia Peng's defenses.

POOH!

Zheng Bin, who had somehow severed the tail of the mysterious outsider creature, stabbed it into Jia Peng's back with all his strength.

The ash-gray bone completely ignored the defenses condensed by Jia Peng's earth power as it completely entered Jia Peng's body.

The vigor in Jia Peng's enraged eyes instantly faded.

He looked into Zheng Bin's eyes with a blank expression on his face. Then he turned his head back and blankly looked down at the bone that was jutting out from his chest, before collapsing to the ground with a loud crash.

The middle Greater Heaven stage Jia Peng, from the Realm of Earth Sieve, was first injured by the Ice Blast Pearl, then bound down by the chaotic magnetic field, and finally killed after being penetrated by the outsider's tail.

Zheng Bin sat on the ground as he gasped for air, still yet to recover from the shock.

Off to the side, Nie Tian was unceasingly gathering his spiritual power and flesh power to resist the earth power that Jia Peng had sent into him.

After a long time, he finally stopped the ravaging earth power inside of him, and his chaotic magnetic field also dissipated into the air.

He raised his head and saw Zheng Bin, who was standing not far from him, looking back at him.

“I can’t believe a Greater Heaven stage expert possesses such formidable power!” Nie Tian sighed.

In order to kill Jia Peng, he had used an Ice Blast Pearl and condensed the chaotic magnetic field. Despite that, his efforts almost went to waste if not for Zheng Bin’s attack at the crucial moment.

Furthermore, Jia Peng wasn’t the strongest among all the experts from the other realms. He was only in the middle Greater Heaven stage.

More importantly, the reason why Jia Peng got himself killed was that he had never expected that Nie Tian would possess powerful weapons like the Ice Blast Pearl, and thus fallen into the chaotic magnetic field unprepared.

Otherwise, considering his strength, Jia Peng could have killed them as easily as if he were slaughtering livestock.

There were also late Greater Heaven stage experts from the outside realms waiting for them. If they didn’t meet Jia Peng, but a

late Greater Heaven stage expert instead, would they still win?

Nie Tian's expression turned grim.

Zheng Bin smiled bitterly and said, "The inferiority in our cultivation base is too great. I don't understand why this Heaven Gate would mix Lesser Heaven, Heaven, and Greater Heaven stage cultivators together. We should only have Lesser Heaven stage cultivators as our opponents. It's too unfair for us to fight against Heaven and Greater Heaven stage cultivators!"

Nie Tian slowly walked towards Jia Peng's corpse. "We're fortunate to still be breathing."

He took the bracelet of holding off of Jia Peng's wrist and released a strand of his psychic awareness to search through the items within.

His expression flickered as he cried out at the first glance of the items within, "We've struck gold!!"

Chapter 149: Gains

“What!?” Zheng Bin also grew intrigued. Without even thinking about it, he stood up and walked towards Nie Tian.

At this moment, dots of light flew out of the Heaven Gate pattern on Jia Peng’s hand.

Like fireflies, they quietly flew towards Zheng Bin.

Within a flash, each and every light dot disappeared into the Heaven Gate pattern on Zheng Bin’s hand.

At the same time, the Heaven Gate pattern on Jia Peng’s hand gradually turned dark and fuzzy, before it completely vanished.

The sudden change caused Nie Tian’s expression to flicker. He curiously looked at Zheng Bin.

Zheng Bin looked down at the light dots on the back of his hand and quietly counted them. After that, he said, his voice sounding a bit confused, “There are seven more light dots...”

He waved his arm and carefully examined it. He discovered that it seemed nothing had changed after those light dots had entered his Heaven Gate pattern.

Face filled with confusion, he contemplated over what had

happened.

“Those light dots ought to have come from those who died.” Nie Tian said, eyes glittering with a profound light. “Six of them belonged to the people who Jia Peng killed, and the other dot belonged to Jia Peng himself.”

When he fought Jia Peng earlier, he noticed that there were six small dots of light in the Heaven Gate pattern on Jia Peng’s hand.

However, he didn’t have to time to read into it back then.

Zheng Bin killed Jia Peng by piercing through his body with the outsider’s tail bone. This must have caused all the light dots that Jia Peng had collected, and the one that belonged to Jia Peng himself, to fly into Zheng Bin’s hand.

“By killing another trial taker, one can collect their victim’s Heaven Gate key? What does this mean?” Zheng Bin was deeply puzzled.

Nie Tian shook his head and said, “I’m not quite sure either. However, I don’t think that’s a bad thing.”

With an intense look on his face, he continued, “From the look of it, those bastards from the outer realms must have already learned about the secrets of the Heaven Gate trial. Not long after they arrived, they already started hunting down other trial takers.

“They might not be after the treasures that their opponents carried. These light dots...could be what they truly want!

“Clearly the mechanism of the Heaven Gate trial encourages trial takers to kill each other!”

Nie Tian’s expression turned grim.

Zheng Bin’s heart shivered. “If that’s the case, anyone we meet in the future will very likely attack us, won’t they? It won’t matter whether we have enmities with each other or we know each other, right?”

“I’m afraid so.” Nie Tian sighed.

Zheng Bin hesitated for a while before saying, “You contributed the most to killing Jia Peng. At least four of these seven light dots should be yours. It’s just that I don’t know how to give them to you.”

After listening to Nie Tian’s explanation, Zheng Bin had a feeling that people who obtained more light dots would gain greater benefits in the future.

In order to kill Jia Peng, Nie Tian had used a Ice Blast Pearl and cast the strange magnetic field. He even suffered injuries during the fight.

He had only dealt the last strike when Jia Peng was about to use

up his strength. He never thought that he would take all the benefits which should have been shared by the two of them.

He felt that it was somewhat unfair for Nie Tian.

Nie Tian smiled and said, “It doesn’t matter, you deserve them. Without your final strike, not only would I have been unable to obtain those light dots, I could’ve even been killed by Jia Peng.

“You saved my life. Don’t blame yourself for it.”

Then he chuckled and said, “Come on, I’ll show you Jia Peng’s possessions!”

After Nie Tian finished speaking, one item after another flew out from Jia Peng’s bracelet of holding.

About ten seconds later, the icy ground between him and Zheng Bin was filled with treasures of all kinds.

There were spiritual materials, spirit stones, medicinal pills, as well as six spiritual tools of rather high ranks within the pile of treasures.

Zheng Bin’s expression flickered as he said with a sullen tone, “There is so much stuff here. This Pure Gold Blade belonged to an elder martial brother of mine. Some of these spiritual materials also came from the Mystic Mist sect...”

Clearly, many of the items in Jia Peng's bracelet of holding didn't belong to him.

He had looted all the treasures and spiritual tools that his victims had owned.

After Nie Tian classified the pile of treasures, he turned to Zheng Bin and said, "I've totalled everything up. There are thirty-two spirit materials of different grades, eight thousand spirit stones, five bottles of medicinal pills, and six spiritual tools. How about we each take half?"

"Won't it be unfair to you?" Zheng Bin seemed overwhelmed by such an unexpected favor. He waved his hand and continued, "You played the most important role in killing Jia Peng, and plus I've already gotten the seven light dots. I'd feel ashamed if we split Jia Peng's possessions."

"Be quick about it." Nie Tian looked somewhat displeased.

Zheng Bin hesitated for a moment, since he secretly desired those treasures. Then he said, "If that's the case, I'll take the items that belonged to the Mystic Mist sect, as well as a few items that suit me. How does that sound?"

He knew that he couldn't compare himself to Nie Tian. Nie Tian had Wu Ji from the Cloudsoaring sect to back him, which allowed Nie Tian to enter the Heaven Gate trial with a considerable amount of spiritual materials and medicinal pills in his possession.

Although he was one of the core disciples of the Mystic Mist sect, almost everyone trial taker from the Mystic Mist sect had a cultivation base that was higher than his, and their status also wasn't something that he could match.

Because of that, he had far fewer spiritual materials than Nie Tian. Having discovered that there was no usable spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth within the icy river of stars where he had to remain in for a long time, the problem of how to get hold of more resources had already become a headache to him.

When Jia Peng's enormous wealth was suddenly placed in front of him like that, it would be impossible for him to not be moved at all.

Nie Tian magnanimously took a step back. "No problem, you choose first."

"Thanks. As a matter of fact, I do need a few things." A hint of happiness appeared on Zheng Bin's face as he finally abandoned the pretense of courtesy. He went ahead and took the few treasures that originally belonged to the Mystic Mist sect, and a few spiritual materials that were suitable for his cultivation. After that, he took a few spirit stones and medicinal pills before he stopped.

The items that he took were roughly a fifth of all the treasures that they had looted.

He wasn't greedy at all.

Nie Tian nodded inwardly. After Zheng Bin finished his selection of items, Nie Tian quickly stored the remaining treasures into his bracelet of holding.

After killing Jia Peng together, the tension between the two of them eased to a great extent.

Especially for Zheng Bin.

After fighting together with Nie Tian this time, he had discovered that he actually didn't know Nie Tian at all when they were in the Green Illusion dimension.

At this moment, he couldn't help but think of the various details of their adventure within the Green Illusion dimension. His expression suddenly flickered as an idea hit him. "Was it you who first discovered Yu Tong's Earth Web back when we were in the Green Illusion dimension? Also, was it because of you that Yu Tong suddenly fell unconscious and had to withdraw?"

Although he didn't know Nie Tian back then, he was quite familiar with Pan Tao. Therefore, when Pan Tao said that he had sensed abnormalities from underground, Zheng Bin found it strange.

As he recalled it now, Pan Tao had left together with Nie Tian at that time.

“Hahaha, the past is the past. No need to overthink things.” Nie Tian laughed and didn’t give a clear answer.

However, Zheng Bin saw through his words.

With a slight nod, Zheng Bin said, “I feel like I’ve just come to know you. If I had known what kind of power you possessed and what you were capable of when we were in the Green Illusion dimension, I would’ve done everything in my power to help you and save you.”

Nie Tian gave a broad smile, not saying anything. Then he sat down on the ground, took out some spirit beast meat from his bracelet of holding, and started eating in order to recover the injuries to his meridians and internal organs.

“Thanks for everything.” With these words, Zheng Bin walked towards Jia Peng’s corpse and retrieved the tail bone that was stuck inside.

WHOOSH!

A pile of sparkling and translucent Flame Crystals that contained rich flame power were piled by Nie Tian’s feet.

There were about several dozens of them, most of which came from Jia Peng.

He believed that there had been disciples of the Ghost sect and

Blood sect among Jia Peng's victims, who also obtained a few Flame Crystals when they were in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

Now, Nie Tian could make full use of all these Flame Crystals to continue cultivating the Flame Spirit Incantation.

“It seems that the spiritual materials and spirit stones that I've obtained from killing a Greater Heaven stage cultivator can sustain me for quite some time. I've struck gold this time...” Muttering to himself, Nie Tian gripped a Flame Crystal in his hand as he started to cultivate attentively.

Chapter 150: Meeting Yu Tong Again

After an unknown period of time passed, Nie Tian awoke from his cultivation. Out of the pile of Flame Crystals in front of him, seven had been drained of their flame power and shattered into pieces of mundane rock.

The vortex of flame power within his spiritual sea clearly increased in size by a significant amount after this round of cultivation.

The flame power contained within it was much thicker and purer than it was before his fight with Jia Peng.

Previously, his meridians and muscles had suffered a certain degree of damage as a result of the earth power that lay within Jia Peng's attack.

Nie Tian had deliberately consumed a large amount of spirit beast meat before cultivating. The pure flesh power that came with it seemed to have quietly spread throughout his body, healing his internal injuries without him even realizing it.

Standing about ten meters away, Zheng Bin said with a warm smile, "You're finally awake."

Wearing white garments, he looked rather handsome.

Nie Tian rose, nodded his head, and said, "How long was I out

for?”

He didn't have any instruments that could tell time. However, from his experience in the Green Illusion dimension, he knew Zheng Bin had an instrument that could tell the time within mysterious realms.

“Two days,” Zheng Bin replied.

Nie Tian rubbed his nose and he said with a chuckle, “It seems our luck isn't that bad after all. It's hard to imagine that no one actually discovered us during these last two days.”

“Hahaha!” Zheng Bin also laughed, “You know what? I don't know why, but after we killed Jia Peng together, I'm suddenly not that scared anymore. Of course, it's mainly thanks to you. Your fearlessness when facing Jia Peng seems to have inspired me. I'm certain that I will be able to obtain a lifelong benefit from my experience here, given that I can live through the Heaven Gate trial!”

“Oh, really?” Nie Tian was both surprised and flattered.

Zheng Bin rose to his feet. “Yeah, it seems to me that you don't have the word fear in your vocabulary. Of course, it might be all the trump cards up your sleeves that allow you to have such inexorable confidence.”

He looked towards a distant meteor that was floating in the

starry sky as he said, “Perhaps it’s time we looked around in other places.”

This was him proposing to leave and explore.

He wouldn’t have the confidence and courage to leave this seemingly safe place if he were to go off alone.

The various miraculous methods that Nie Tian had used to fight Jia Peng made Zheng Bin feel that he would be much safer if he traveled together with Nie Tian.

He had already made up his mind that he would stick together with Nie Tian during the Heavenly Gate trial as long as he could.

“Sure...” Nie Tian also rose to his feet.

He had already obtained a primary understanding of the Flame Spirit Incantation after the last two days of cultivation. His injuries had also fully healed.

At present, he was at his peak state, and had also developed a high confidence in the might of the chaotic magnetic field.

Therefore he also believed that it was time to explore other places.

After the two of them reached an agreement, they left the meteor

that they had never dared to leave before, and moved towards nearby meteors.

Within the icy river of stars, they explored meteor after meteor. They would go to a nearby meteor to search for life. After finding no signs of life, they would head towards another one.

Time quickly passed. Within the blink of an eye, another three days went by.

They had already moved far away from the meteor they originally hid on. However, they still couldn't find any signs of life.

All they had found were a few frozen corpses. There were corpses of people from the Mystic Mist sect, Ghost sect, and Blood sect, all of them killed brutally.

Mentally prepared for the cruelty and fierceness of the Heaven Gate trial, Nie Tian turned a blind eye to the corpses, and seemed completely unaffected.

Zheng Bin had already known that Jia Peng had killed some of his senior martial brothers, so he also maintained his calm when seeing the corpses.

The two of them took their time to cultivate and meticulously traveled from one meteor to another, without any destination in mind.

One day...

As they traveled, Nie Tian unleashed his psychic awareness every so often to scan for any abnormalities in the surroundings. He suddenly detected an intense bloody aura in front of them.

As he narrowed his eyes, his psychic awareness seemed to become invisible tentacles, stretching out of his soul and carefully probing forwards.

Gradually, he discovered the traces of the blood strings from a Earth Web underneath the earth that lay ahead.

Nie Tian held his steps. "It's the Earth Web!"

With furrowed brows, he looked at the icy ground in front of him, which was filled with scattered stones, while indicating for Zheng Bin to stop.

Zheng Bin's expression faintly changed. "People from the Blood sect?"

Nie Tian nodded. Pointing towards the scattered stones in front of him, he said, "There are blood strings under the ground."

Although they were both at the the early Lesser Heaven stage, Zheng Bin's psychic power wasn't as strong as Nie Tian's. Therefore, he couldn't sense the abnormalities that lay under the ground in front of them.

However, by this point, he was very certain that it was Nie Tian who had discovered the underground movements while they were in the Green Illusion dimension, and that it was Nie Tian who had discovered Yu Tong secretly activating her technique.

Having a new level of respect toward Nie Tian, Zheng Bin pondered for a moment before asking, “What do you think we should do? Do we... go back?”

There were a large number of enormous meteors in the vicinity. If they wanted to, they could keep away from the trial takers from the Blood Sect and continue exploring other meteors.

“The Blood sect...” Nie Tian pondered inwardly, looking somewhat hesitant.

However, at that moment, the psychic awareness that he spread out told him that someone was rapidly closing in.

Furthermore, he was incomparably familiar with that person’s aura.

A bitter look appeared at the corner of his mouth. “Yu Tong!”

He was well aware how much Yu Tong hated him, and he was fairly certain that she would immediately strike the second she saw him, without even saying a word.

“Let’s go.” Without wasting a moment, Nie Tian turned around, wishing to leave as soon as possible.

Upon hearing Yu Tong’s name, Zheng Bin also had a headache, since he also knew that the woman was quite a character.

Zheng Bin hurriedly sped away after Nie Tian.

SHEW!

A scarlet, bloody figure suddenly dashed over, at a speed so fast that it seemed as if she had turned into a stream of light. It stopped after reaching the limit of the Earth Web.

The figure was none other than the witch Yu Tong.

Wearing red garments from head to toe, she stood at the edge of the Earth Web’s reach, seemingly cautious with her next movement.

It was as if... she didn’t dare to leave the area that the Earth Web covered.

“Nie Tian!” Having found out that the person trying to escape was Nie Tian, she was instantly agitated.

In an instant, her pupils became bloodshot, appearing demonic yet gorgeous.

At this moment, Feng Luo from the Blood sect also arrived like a flash of light. “Nie Tian...”

After seeing Yu Tong bursting into a fuming rage after finding out it was Nie Tian, Feng Luo hastily said, “Little Tong, don’t be impulsive! Times have changed! This isn’t the Realm of Flame Heaven, and our realm is about to face huge calamity! From now on, the seven sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven are in the same boat! You must temporarily put aside the grudges you have against Nie Tian!”

As he spoke, Nie Tian noticed that the early Greater Heaven stage Feng Luo seemed somewhat pale, as if he had exhausted plenty of his strength.

“Uncle Feng, I, I can’t... not after everything he’s done to me!” Yu Tong clenched her teeth as she said.

“I understand,” Feng Luo smiled bitterly. Then he cast a fierce glare towards Nie Tian, as he remembered the despicable things he had done to Yu Tong when they were in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. “This damn brat truly deserves to be killed. If we can pull through the calamity that’ll hit the Realm of Flame Heaven, I will personally arrange for you to have a fair fight with him. However... considering where we are now, we can’t afford to waste any strength on him!”

Yu Tong’s demonic eyes were still fixed on Nie Tian, she gradually tuned down her hatred toward Nie Tian after hearing

Feng Luo's exhortation.

On the other hand, Nie Tian also stopped fleeing after hearing Feng Luo's words.

"What are you doing?" Zheng Bin said with an anxious look on his face.

Yu Tong's appearance alone had given him a headache. Adding in the early Greater Heaven stage Feng Luo, his only thought now was to run as far away as he could.

If it were another time, he would have long since abandoned Nie Tian and escaped by himself after seeing his foolish behavior.

However, now he decided to stay with Nie Tian, although he was inwardly questioning Nie Tian's choice.

Nie Tian turned around and spoke loudly to Feng Luo and Yu Tong, "Senior Feng Luo is correct. In the past, the seven sects were incompatible as fire and water. It was natural that we started killing each other whenever we met. However, it's a different time now. The Realm of Flame Heaven will soon be invaded by demons. By the time we return, it's possible that the Realm of Flame Heaven will have already been overtaken.

"Even if the seven sects have joined forces and fought off the invading demons, I'm afraid that their strength will definitely be greatly weakened. Then the ambitious ones from the other realms

will very likely swoop in and take the opportunity to seize the Realm of Flame Heaven for themselves.

“This is only what will possibly happen to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“Within the Heaven Gate trial, there are still many from the other realms, like Jia Peng, who are slaughtering our people.

“Facing a situation like this, if still we continue fighting among ourselves, won’t we be digging our own grave?”

With these words, Nie Tian even slowly walked towards Feng Luo and Yu Tong.

Zheng Bin seemed to be floundering over what he should do. After a while of pondering, he also approached Feng Luo.

Feng Luo gave a cold snort as he stared at Nie Tian. “As much as I dislike you, at least you’ve got some logic there. However, you two are too weak. You have nothing to offer if we let you tag along. Since we all came from the Realm of Flame Heaven, I’ll let you off the hook. You can go fend for yourselves.”

He waved his hands, indicating for Nie Tian and Zheng Bin go away.

“But Senior Feng Luo, we’ve killed Jia Peng from the Realm of Earth Sieve!” Zheng Bin shouted loudly, “Are we qualified to travel

with you now?”

“You’ve killed Jia Peng?” Feng Luo sneered. “Are you joking?”

Zheng Bin raised his hand high in the air as he showed the seven light dots on the back of his hand to Feng Luo, “Look for yourself!”

Eyes narrowing, Feng Luo took a close look at Zheng Bin’s hand. Finally intrigued, he asked, “Did you two really kill Jia Peng?”

“Sure as hell!” replied Zheng Bin.

Feng Luo hesitated for a moment before exhorting Yu Tong in a low voice. Then he beckoned for them to come over and said, “Come on. I need you to give me a rational explanation as to how the two of you managed to kill Jia Peng, a powerful expert with a cultivation base of the middle Greater Heaven, with your petty strength!”

“Okay!” Zheng Bin replied as he stepped towards Feng Luo.

Nie Tian also walked over.

Chapter 151: Obtaining Recognition

Walking towards Feng Luo, Nie Tian had his eyes fixed on Yu Tong. Hatred was written all over her face, and she looked like she wanted to eat him alive.

“Hahaha!”

After letting out a soft, embarrassed laugh, Nie Tian chose to ignore her. Slowly, he and Zheng Bin walked over to the area of scattered stones.

Just as he was about to enter the area within the Earth Web’s coverage, Nie Tian seemed slightly hesitant, as he was a bit worried that this was a trap set up by Feng Luo.

However, he took the step forward and nothing happened.

Feng Luo had a grim face as he stood beside a shattered meteorite. Glaring at Zheng Bin, he said, “Your explanation!”

Facing Feng Luo so closely, the previously loud Zheng Bin suddenly became somewhat timorous.

He gave an embarrassed laugh as he shot a glance towards the calm Nie Tian next to him, while saying, “Ask him.”

Then Feng Luo and Yu Tong’s gazes instantly shifted to Nie Tian.

“We exerted all our means to deal with a middle Greater Heaven cultivator from the other realms!” Feng Luo snorted as he said, “Even still, we suffered a terrible defeat and almost died fighting him. Therefore, we had no choice but to retreat to this area and refrain from making any rash actions, so as to gather enough strength to fight that person again! Jia Peng was also at the middle Greater Heaven, and by no means weaker than our opponent. What did you use to kill him?”

Although he saw the seven extra light dots on the back of Zheng Bin’s hand, Feng Luo still didn’t believe what Zheng Bin said.

“If you can’t give a rational answer, I won’t let you off!” Yu Tong coldly said.

An intense, bloody aura quietly emerged from her curvaceous body and suffused into the air around her.

Deep under the ground, countless strands of Earth Web blood strings that she had condensed were quietly slithering around like snakes.

It seemed as though she would immediately make a move if Nie Tian’s answer sounded wrong in the slightest, despite what Feng Luo had said.

She couldn’t help but grit her teeth when she remembered how Nie Tian had humiliated her in the Green Illusion dimension, and his unspeakable actions in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

“Well...”

Nie Tian hesitated for a moment. Then he told himself that only by uniting against their common enemy within the Heaven Gate trial, would trial takers from the Realm of Flame Heaven maintain their power to return to their homeland in the future.

He decided to reveal some of his strength.

“Firstly, I used a Ice Blast Pearl. That was how I injured Jia Peng when he first approached me.

“After that, skin cut open and flesh torn, Jia Peng fell into special magnetic field that I created.”

While speaking, he reached out his hands and held them in front of his chest, palms facing each other. He quietly unleashed his psychic power, flesh power, spiritual power, as well as flame power, forming a chaotic magnetic field that covered a range of three meters.

In the instant that the chaotic magnetic field appeared, the expressions of Feng Luo and Yu Tong suddenly flickered.

It was especially true for Yu Tong!

The Earth Web, which she had formed using the Blood sect's

secret technique and a high ranked spirit equipment, suddenly escaped her control in the moment that the chaotic magnetic field formed!

The energy within the area Nie Tian was in turned incomparably disorderly and violent. The chaotic magnetic field that only covered a three meter radius seemed to have twisted the Earth Web, which was lying under the ground!

Neither the blood strings nor her psychic power were able to penetrate into the chaotic magnetic field.

A great ripple occurred in the Earth Web when the magnetic field spread out!

The fear of losing control of the Earth Web rose in Yu Tong's heart.

It was also at this moment that Feng Luo sensed that something was going on, and suddenly took a step forward.

With that step, he entered Nie Tian's magnetic field. Immediately after, he let out a muffled groan as his face turned even more pale.

All of a sudden, Feng Luo was completely drowned by the bizarre sensations that Jia Peng had previously experienced.

He felt a sudden dizziness and nearly passed out.

Nie Tian hastily stepped backwards, freeing Feng Luo of the influence of the magnetic field without the need for his own efforts.

As he moved backward, the magnetic field moved with him. Feng Luo, who was on the verge of fainting, suddenly became clear-headed.

He stared at Nie Tian, eyes filled with shock and disbelief. Gasping for air, he asked, “Did your master teach you how to wield this strange, chaotic power?”

Nie Tian nodded. “Yes, he did.”

Feng Luo’s eyes lit up as he spoke in a low voice, “No wonder they all say that Senior Wu Ji is an unusual character in the Realm of Flame Heaven. I guess it’s possible that you two killed Jia Peng.”

“Be quick and stop your magnetic field!” Yu Tong couldn’t help but shriek.

At this moment, she discovered that the Earth Web she had gone to great lengths to condense was about to be ripped apart by Nie Tian’s chaotic magnetic field.

She was very clear about what would happen if it did. She knew what kind of injuries she’d suffer once it was fractured and thrown into a state of chaos!

“I, I don’t know how to stop it.” Nie Tian suddenly realized that he had been damaging Yu Tong’s Earth Web and hastily jumped away from his original location.

Fortunately, the effect of gravity in the ice-cold river of stars was extremely small.

With little effort, he managed to spring into midair, and the magnetic field surrounding him followed him into the sky.

After the magnetic field rose into the air as a result of Nie Tian leaving the ground, Yu Tong immediately looked relieved.

Apparently, the Earth Web wouldn’t be affected by the magnetic field, as long as the magnetic field wasn’t in contact with the blood strings that ran under the ground.

Nie Tian soon landed outside of the range of Yu Tong’s Earth Web.

There, he waited for the magnetic field to wear out its energy and disperse by itself.

Off to the side, Feng Luo and Yu Tong spent a moment to calm themselves before rushing over to Nie Tian.

They stopped at the edge of the reach of the Earth Web. Standing

about ten meters away from Nie Tian, they used an extremely strange gaze to examine him.

Nie Tian looked back at them.

After a while, a faint smile floated on Feng Luo's face as he turned to Yu Tong and said, "Little Tong, set aside your grudges with him for the time being. This kid learned this strange technique from his master Wu Ji, and maybe more... We might benefit from his existence. The foreign cultivator who attacked us earlier probably has already recovered his strength. It won't be long before he comes back to try and kill us.

"Both of us spent a lot of energy during that previous fight.

"It's highly unlikely for the two of us to beat him.

"Unless we have Nie Tian to help us. With his strange magnetic field and Wu Ji's Ice Blast Pearls, we might be able to defeat that man.

"What do you say?"

Feng Luo spent great effort to try to persuade Yu Tong to temporarily put aside the enmity between her and Nie Tian, for the sake of working together to fight that foreigner.

Clenching her jaw, Yu Tong cast another fierce look toward Nie Tian and finally gave a sigh of grievance. "As you wish, Uncle

Feng.”

Their previous fight against the foreign cultivator was such a close call for them, that both she and Feng Luo had spared no effort. Even still, they only managed to narrowly escape.

However, Feng Luo had sustained injuries and it was impossible for him to recover within a short period of time.

If that man came back for them and caught Feng Luo in this situation, she could only watch Feng Luo die. And then it would be her turn.

The mere thought of the merciless and vulgar look within that man’s eyes, she couldn’t help but tremble with fear, while goosebumps appeared on her skin.

Thus, she agreed to Feng Luo’s proposal.

“Fine. Let him come with us.”

Unwilling to spare Nie Tian another glance, Yu Tong turned around and walked off. She returned to the area with shattered stones alone and randomly chose a location to sit down, starting to calm the rattled auras inside of her.

A while passed and the effect of the magnetic field on the Earth Web had finally been lifted.

“The man we fought earlier came from the Realm of Dark Underworld. Just like Jia Peng, he’s also in the middle Greater Heaven stage...”

As Feng Luo walked back to the area filled with shattered rocks, his attitude towards Nie Tian was clearly different from before.

He explained the situation of the expert from the Realm of Dark Underworld in detail to Nie Tian.

Nie Tian took all the information that Feng Luo told him to heart as they returned to the area with the shattered rocks. He realized that Yu Tong was deliberately avoiding him, but he didn’t take it to heart. Instead, he sat beside Zheng Bin and closed his eyes to adjust his breathing and aura.

He attempted to completely restore the energy he had consumed to create the chaotic magnetic field before the foreign cultivator returned.

Chapter 152: Teaming Up

Before long, Nie Tian fully restored the energy that he had spent on forming the chaotic magnetic field.

After opening his eyes, he found that Feng Luo had been quietly examining him up and down from the side.

Seeing that he had awakened, Feng Luo briefly nodded toward him and said, “If that man ever comes again, the magnetic field that you’ve previously formed will definitely be of great help.”

“Okay, I’ll use it to help you,” Nie Tian promised.

“As for the Ice Blast Pearls...” Feng Luo pondered for a moment and said, “I’m afraid that they won’t be of much help.”

“What do you mean?” Nie Tian was intrigued.

Feng Luo gave a bitter smile and said, “I forgot to tell you just now that the man cultivates frost and ice spiritual incantations. Therefore, the attribute of his spiritual power is that of frost.

“Therefore, he probably won’t be influenced in the least bit by the ice shards and ice blades released by the Ice Blast Pearl.

“On the contrary, it’s possible that he could gain control of the pearl’s power and use it against us.”

Upon hearing that the foreign Qi warrior cultivated frost power, Nie Tian immediately gave up the idea of using the Ice Blast Pearls. “I see. So I won’t use the Ice Blast Pearls.”

“I sustained injuries during our previous fight with that man and still need time to recover.” Feng Luo seemed somewhat embarrassed as he said, “Of course, I’ll do my utmost to fight him when he comes back. However... I doubt that I’ll provide much help.”

“What about her?” Nie Tian cast his gaze towards Yu Tong.

Yu Tong was sitting silently next to a giant rock, continuously releasing intense, bloody auras.

“Little Tong didn’t suffer any serious injuries from our previous battle. Plus, she has advanced to the middle Lesser Heaven stage after the tempering that she received from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. However, I doubt that she’ll be able to do much to help, considering her Lesser Heaven cultivation base.”

With these words, the way Feng Luo looked at Nie Tian grew somewhat strange.

After all, he still found it hard to believe that Nie Tian and Zheng Bin managed to kill Jia Peng when the two of them were both in early Lesser Heaven stage.

“Wu Ji...”

Eventually, he attributed all of the unfathomable things that had happened to Nie Tian to Wu Ji, and thus his respect for Wu Ji rose to a whole other level.

“Middle Lesser Heaven stage!” Nie Tian shot another glance at Yu Tong.

He didn’t anticipate that the witch would make another breakthrough in such a short time.

As many miraculous encounters as he had, he hadn’t been able to break through into the middle Lesser Heaven when he left the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

He was totally amazed at Yu Tong’s unparalleled cultivation talent.

Even though she was sitting on the ground, the red-garbed Yu Tong seemed quite graceful, and surprisingly, curvaceous.

All of a sudden, she seemed to have sensed Nie Tian’s staring and turned around to glare at him, saying, “What are you looking at?”

Nie Tian laughed embarrassedly. “N-nothing.”

Now that the two of them needed to live under the same roof for

the time being, he didn't want to piss her off. Hence, he grinned as he shifted his gaze to Zheng Bin.

Zheng Bin smiled back at him and said, "I have faith that we will beat that foreign cultivator this time."

Clearly, Zheng Bin had become much more confident after killing Jia Peng with Nie Tian. Especially after adding Feng Luo and Yu Tong to their alliance, he felt that they had reason to be confident while facing another middle Greater Heaven expert.

He was so confident that he even started to think about how many spiritual materials he would get after slaughtering that foreign cultivator.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

At that very moment, a bone-piercing, cold gale blew past.

The wind carried frost power so destructive that it could easily freeze a man's flesh and bones. Over the past several days, Nie Tian had experienced it quite a few times.

As soon as the harsh, cold wind grazed his skin, he took out a spirit stone from within his bracelet of holding and started absorbing its spiritual power without any hesitation.

As he mobilized the power within the spirit stone, a faint aura of spiritual power silently spread out from inside of him, forming a

shield protecting him from the fierce coldness.

Zheng Bin, Yu Tong, and Feng Luo also understood the bitterness of the cold wind. Every one of them frowned while trying their best to fend off the coldness.

As soon as Feng Luo channeled the blood and aura inside of him, his eyebrows rose, as if he had come to some discovery.

“Something is wrong,” Feng Luo said in a low voice. “The wind seems to be stronger than it used to be. I believe it’s that man’s doing.”

Nie Tian was taken aback by Feng Luo’s words. “He can even mobilize the cold currents in this ice-cold dimension?”

“I don’t know for sure.” Feng Luo pondered for a moment and said, “But I’m fairly certain that since he cultivates frost power, he doesn’t need to defend himself against such a cold gale, and even worse, he may even benefit from it!

“After absorbing the frost power from within the gust of wind, his strength may be significantly bolstered!

“Everyone, keep your eyes open!

“Whether or not this gust of wind is caused by him, I believe he’ll take the opportunity to attack us!”

After hearing Feng Luo's words, Nie Tian's expression turned grim as he quietly unleashed his psychic power to detect even the slightest changes to the temperature in the vicinity.

The moment his psychic power left his body, Nie Tian sensed that there seemed to be threads of soul power, which carried a bloody aura, within the biting wind.

Apparently, that soul power had already beat him to covering the entire area that they were in.

Meanwhile, his own psychic power had merely reached a ten meters radius.

He looked toward Feng Luo, eyes filled with astonishment.

Feng Luo slightly nodded toward Nie Tian, a hint of admiration appearing in his eyes. "It seems that it wasn't pure luck that you beat Little Tong more than once."

It was Feng Luo who had dispersed a bloody aura into the surroundings. Therefore he detected Nie Tian's psychic power the moment he released it.

He also immediately came to a surprising finding that Nie Tian's psychic power was purer and stronger than Yu Tong's.

However, Yu Tong was in the middle Lesser Heaven stage!

Having an outstanding psychic power meant that Nie Tian would grow rapidly in his future path of soul cultivation.

After developing to a certain extent, his psychic power would upgrade and become soul power, which carried countless secrets, and only high-leveled Qi warriors would be able to use.

Upon closer examination, Feng Luo was increasingly amazed at the strength of Nie Tian's psychic power.

“Wu Ji...” He muttered to himself as his admiration to that eccentric old man rose to another level.

“Uncle Feng!” Yu Tong suddenly cried out. “Something happened to my Earth Web!”

After hearing her words, both Nie Tian and Feng Luo sensed that the cold wind seemed to have changed its direction and went directly downwards, as if it were attempting to penetrate the earth.

Beneath the ice-cold ground, the numerous blood strings of the Earth Web seemed to have been frozen by the frost power and turned into ice strings.

Having its blood strings frozen, the effect of Yu Tong's Earth Web had been greatly compromised. She might even suffer a

significant backlash from it.

Furthermore, even if she wanted to retrieve the blood strings, she wouldn't be able to, since the earth, together with the blood strings, had already been frozen solid.

Within such a short time, the cold wind that had blown over out of nowhere had completely invalidated Yu Tong's secret spell.

Anxiety could be seen from within her devilish, beautiful eyes.

At that moment, a slim figure suddenly shot up into the air from a meteor that was rather far away.

The man closed in on them at an extremely fast speed, as if he had been carried by the fierce, biting wind.

He was wreathed in a cold aura that was visible to the naked eye, which seemed to be constantly fluctuating around him, stirring the direction of the wind.

"I was right. He is behind all this!"

The moment Feng Luo saw him, he realized what was going on and why a gust of cold wind was suddenly born.

"Yee?! Two more brats to the crowd!" With a glance of everyone from afar, the man burst into laughter. "Good. Two more Heaven

Gate keys to collect!”

At first glance, he saw that Nie Tian and Zheng Bin were only in the Lesser Heaven stage.

In his eyes, with cultivation bases so poor, Nie Tian and his group were practically sheep waiting to be slaughtered and Heaven Gate keys waiting to be looted.

Chapter 153: Losing Total Control!

“Uncle Feng! I’ve completely lost control of my Earth Web!”

Panic could be seen on Yu Tong’s face as numerous strands of scarlet blood strings whizzed out of her palm before pouring into the ground.

She was doing her utmost to manipulate the blood strings back into a defensive field in the area around them.

Unfortunately, every single one of the blood strings underground had been frozen by the frost power and turned into a net of ice strings, which could no longer follow her commands.

CRACKLE!

Feng Luo stood by a small crater that he had filled with blood. As soon as the cold gale blew past, the pond of blood was frozen.

Originally, Feng Luo planned to use the blood as a source of energy, with which he could strengthen the Earth Web and cast all kinds of Blood sect secret magics.

However, now that the blood had been turned into a giant piece of semi-translucent and sparkling ice, it also fell out of Feng Luo’s control.

In the blink of an eye, the defensive system and all the preparations that Yu Tong and Feng Luo had made were breached and ended up in vain.

Meanwhile, the man from the Realm of Dark Underworld rode the bitingly cold wind as he got nearer and nearer.

The slim man's name was Zhao Mo, a powerful Qi warrior from an extremely cold part of the Realm of Dark Underworld.

A suffocating, bleak light shot out of his narrowed eyes as he gave a grin that was as fierce as the wind.

From Yu Tong and Feng Luo's expressions, he could tell that as the cold wind grew increasingly strong, the defenses that they had condensed with blood already lost their effect.

Their mysterious, unpredictable blood magic and sophisticated layout was exactly the reason why Zhao Mo had retreated from his last battle against them.

With the experience from their last fight, he cast his frost magics before the actual fight to manipulate the flow of the cold wind in the vicinity.

Feng Luo's speculations were correct. The sudden gust of wind was indeed Zhao Mo's doing.

SHEW!

Zhao Mo suddenly accelerated and like a flash of icy light, he descended towards the meteor that Nie Tian and his group was on.

At the same time, Nie Tian didn't say a word. He placed his hands opposite to each other as he started summoning each and every kind of power within him.

In a split second, a chaotic, twisting magnetic field was born in between his hands, rapidly spreading in every direction.

“One meter, two meters, three meters...”

The chaotic magnetic field expanded at an amazing speed.

During the process, Nie Tian gave Feng Luo a meaningful look, urging him to stall Zhao Mo temporarily, in case he lay his murderous hands on him before the magnetic field was fully formed.

Feng Luo nodded vigorously and immediately stepped toward Zhao Mo.

A strong, bloody aura was released from within every one of Feng Luo's pores, and moments later, he was wreathed in a thick blood mist.

Within the murky blood mist, numerous blood-colored lights

constantly flashed past, forming a terrifying storm of blood.

“Hahaha!”

With a sneer, Zhao Mo from the Realm of Dark Underworld shook his head; he wasn't in a hurry to attack.

Meanwhile, he shifted his gaze from Feng Luo to the anxious Yu Tong, who was now sitting off to the side.

An overtly obscene look could be seen in his cold eyes as his gaze constantly shifted back and forth between Yu Tong's delicate face, slender, jade neck, and curvy physique.

The sneer on his face gradually filled with lust.

Yu Tong, on the other hand, experienced a sudden rush of coldness all over her body, as if an ice-cold serpent had stealthily wrapped around on her bare skin.

Yu Tong unnaturally wiggled her body in an attempt to get rid of the uncomfortable feeling as she averted her sight.

“Interesting!” Zhao Mo gave a low laugh. With a complacent face, he shifted his gaze back to Feng Luo.

As soon as he did, the lust in his eyes vanished, replaced by a bone-piercing coldness.

“You won’t escape death this time.”

With these words, Zhao Mo waved his hands through the air, casting a mysterious frost power incantation.

As he formed the hand seal, the wind that had been blowing randomly suddenly seemed to come together and started moving as a whole.

It was as if the scattered cold currents had simultaneously received a common order and thus madly rushed towards Feng Luo.

Ear-piercing howls rang out from within the strong wind.

In the meantime, Zhao Mo let out a cold harrumph and said, “Get the hell out of there!”

CRACKLE!

Upon his command, the icy ground cracked open and numerous blood strings that had been frozen by Zhao Mo’s frost power shot out from the earth!

Hundreds of blood-colored ice shards followed Zhao Mo’s command and flew into the air one after another.

Off to the side, Nie Tian, who was focused on casting his spell, spared the battlefield a glance, and was immediately flabbergasted by the numerous blood-colored ice shards that were floating in the air.

Every blood string that Yu Tong had used the Blood sect secret magic to refine had been coated with a layer of ice.

The weapon that was originally meant for dealing with Zhao Mo was now being used against its own master.

POOH!

Yu Tong suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood, and her glittering, devilish eyes immediately darkened.

Meanwhile, her delicate face seemed to have turned as pale as Feng Luo's.

It was only in the blink of an eye that she had been severely injured.

Eyes filled with panic, she looked over towards Zhao Mo. When she saw Zhao Mo rapidly weave his fingers in the air, commanding the numerous blood-colored ice shards to pierce towards Feng Luo, she screamed out loudly to Nie Tian and Zheng Bin, "Help my Uncle Feng!"

Since she was currently experiencing a deviation of Qi and blood,

she couldn't even calm the rampage inside of her, much less summon enough strength to attack Zhao Mo.

“Help him?” A sneer appeared on Zhao Mo's face, as if he found the idea very laughable. Shaking his head, he said indifferently, “You want these two Lesser Heaven stage brats to help him? Have you lost your mind?”

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

All of a sudden, ten of the blood-colored ice shards that had been floating in the air whizzed in Nie Tian and Zheng Bin's direction.

Zheng Bin's face turned pale with fright. He desperately jumped backward.

POOH! POOH! POOH!

Several scarlet ice shards nearly hit him and pierced into the frozen ground.

As they stabbed into the ground, their ice coating cracked open, showing the blood strings inside.

However, it was only a moment before the frost power that had been hiding in the earth spread to the blood strings and froze them again.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

On the other hand, the few scarlet ice shards that flew towards Nie Tian fell into his magnetic field and instantly shattered.

It seemed that not only the ice coatings, but even the scarlet blood strings that lay inside couldn't withstand the distorting force of the magnetic field and exploded into fine fragments.

PUFF!

Because of the explosion of the blood strings, Yu Tong once again coughed up a mouthful of blood.

It seemed that there was a unearthly link between her and the numerous scarlet blood strings

As long as the blood strings were damaged, Yu Tong would sustain injuries herself accordingly.

“What?!”

For the first time, Zhao Mo, who was about to use the rest blood-colored ice shards to attack Feng Luo, spared Nie Tian a thorough look.

Only then did he realize that there seemed to be a faint, mysterious aura around the kid who he even didn't bother to look

at.

WHOOSH!

Just as Zhao Mo was pondering, Nie Tian made a vigorous leap and shot towards Zhao Mo like a bullet.

The moment he moved, the chaotic magnetic field that had been wreathed around him followed him into the air.

By this point, the coverage of the chaotic, twisting magnetic field had already reached an eight meters radius!

Within the magnetic field, psychic power, spiritual power, flesh power, flame power, and a surge of newly joined frost power twisted together and clashed with each other, giving rise to an extremely unstable aura.

The twisting power that rampaged within seemed to have grown even mightier than when he used it against Jia Peng.

“It’s because of the frost power!”

Nie Tian’s expression slightly flickered as he came to that realization while charging towards Zhao Mo.

The cold, whistling wind carried countless threads of frost power that came from Zhao Mo. When he was forming the magnetic field

earlier, the frost power was also pulled inside.

Adding power with a new attribute as fuel, the might of the magnetic field was once again boosted.

As he closed in on Zhao Mo, he could keenly sense that the fierce, biting cold wind around him seemed to have been affected by the magnetic field.

In the middle of the magnetic field, he could no longer feel the bone-piercing coldness, as all the frost power within the wind had been sucked into the chaotic magnetic field.

Zhao Mo from the Realm of Dark Underworld gave a cold snort, and a faint grim look appeared in his eyes as he looked at Nie Tian

The reason was that just now he tried to use his psychic power to examine the seemingly bizarre magnetic field that had been surrounding Nie Tian, but the moment a wisp of his psychic power flowed into the magnetic field, he lost contact with it!

“Weird little brat.”

Zhao Mo frowned as he obtained a new understanding of Nie Tian’s chaotic magnetic field.

Unlike Jia Peng, he didn’t enter it so quickly.

Instead, he jumped backward as Nie Tian approached, keeping a distance between Nie Tian and himself. He wanted to gain a better knowledge of whatever it was that surrounded Nie Tian.

Standing a safe distance away, he started to weave his hands in front of him while his eyes emanated a fierce, ice-cold light.

Half of the blood-colored ice shards stopped attacking Feng Luo, turned around, and whizzed towards Nie Tian.

Nie Tian, who was still being carried forward by the momentum, turned to look back, and found that hundreds of scarlet ice shards were flying in his direction like bloodthirsty snakes.

BOOM! BOOM!

Manipulated by Zhao Mo, one ice shard after another shot into Nie Tian's chaotic magnetic field.

Each and every one of them exploded, sending out fine, fragmented ice into the area around Nie Tian. The blood strings that had been hidden inside also shattered one after another.

PUFF! PUFF!

Sitting on the ground, Yu Tong couldn't stop from coughing up blood. However, she could only summon all her strength to resist the frenzied Qi and blood inside of her. Looking extremely frail, she didn't say a word.

“Nie Tian! Those blood strings are connected to Little Tong’s life essence. Don’t let them enter the magnetic field around you. Otherwise, she might die!” Feng Luo almost screeched to warn Nie Tian.

“Ah!!”

Only after hearing Feng Luo’s reminder, did Nie Tian look back and realize that the explosion of the blood strings had dealt great damage to Yu Tong.

He looked Yu Tong in the eyes and said, “Sorry, my bad. I’ll be more careful.”

Face as white as sheet, Yu Tong seemed quite fragile and delicate. Hearing Nie Tian’s words, she cast him a cold glare and said, “Go to hell!”

Chapter 154: Fleeing

Because of Feng Luo's reminder, Nie Tian paid a lot more attention to the incoming blood-colored ice shards, and tried his best to avoid absorbing them into his chaotic magnetic field.

However, Zhao Mo didn't plan to let him off so easily.

From where he was standing, a distance away from Nie Tian, he once again operated his spiritual incantation to stimulate the frost power within the remaining flying ice shards.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The whizzing, scarlet ice shards instantly sped up, turning into red meteors as they plummeted towards him.

Meanwhile, Zhao Mo snorted coldly. "Freeze!" Then, the thick frost mist that had wreathed him also abruptly rushed towards Nie Tian.

CRACKLE!

An unusual noise came through from the sky when the thick and cold mist whizzed through the air, as if even the air were freezing up.

The cold mist stopped right between Nie Tian and Zhao Mo,

creating an enormous shield.

Nie Tian, on the other hand, didn't have even the slightest intention of avoiding it.

He instantly entered the cold mist together with the chaotic and distorted magnetic field.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

As soon as the cold mist entered the chaotic magnetic field, it instantly turned into small fragments of ice, which were assimilated by the chaotic magnetic field.

Subsequently, Zhao Mo lost contact with the very frost power he himself had unleashed.

“What the hell?!” Zhao Mo stood aghast.

As of this moment, the grimness in his gaze when he looked at Nie Tian started to fade away, gradually replaced by panic.

He noticed that he had no good way to deal with the strange magnetic field that was surrounding Nie Tian. As soon as his attacks fell into it, they would immediately be distorted and assimilated, becoming fuel for the magnetic field.

Even the psychic power that he had unleashed was completely

obliterated once it penetrated into the magnetic field.

Zhao Mo finally lost his composure.

He continuously moved backward and completely gave up on trying to get closer to Nie Tian. Simultaneously, he fixed his attention on the bizarre magnetic field, searching in his head for a way to break it.

“Yee?”

It wasn't long before Zhao Mo noticed something. His expression flickered slightly as a faint smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

He had just noticed that the magnetic field wrapping around Nie Tian appeared to be slowly shrinking as time passed!

“Hah!”

Zhao Mo started to grin complacently and said from afar, “As it turns out, the magnetic field that you have formed can't persist for long. Things have just become much simpler. All I need to do is wait for the magnetic field to disappear, and then kill you effortlessly. I absolutely don't need to waste anymore energy on you.”

As soon as these words came out, the thick frost mist, along with the scarlet ice shards that had been pursuing Nie Tian, all changed

their direction.

They all turned around in the air, and swooped down towards Feng Luo and Zheng Bin.

Yu Tong was the only one who hadn't been targeted. Obviously, he had other plans for her.

“Oh, damn!” Nie Tian softly cried out as he saw that Zhao Mo only moved backwards to avoid him, refusing to confront him directly.

At this moment, he had also finally come to realize the most significant weakness of the chaotic magnetic field: it would fade away as time passed!

If his cultivation base and his strength were profound and powerful enough, he would have caught up to Zhao Mo before the chaotic magnetic field faded away.

In that way, he would be able to inflict serious damage on Zhao Mo by relying on the chaotic magnetic field.

Unfortunately, he only had the cultivation base of Lesser Heaven, while Zhao Mo was in middle Greater Heaven stage. The huge gap in their cultivation bases made it impossible for him to get close to Zhao Mo, even if he went all out.

Zhao Mo's wise move made him understand that it was by luck

that he had been able to inflict serious damage on Jia Peng with the chaotic magnetic field, after which Zheng Bin had taken the opportunity to kill him from behind.

If Jia Peng hadn't fallen into the chaotic magnetic field, but instead jumped back to avoid Nie Tian like Zhao Mo did, he and Zheng Bin would have had only a very slim chance of winning.

With these thoughts, a bitter smile appeared at the corner of Nie Tian's mouth. He finally realized how big of an influence a poor cultivation base could be.

Zheng Bin and Feng Luo were both busy dealing with the ice shards and the cold mist, and after hearing what Zhao Mo said, their hearts sank.

The two of them had also realized that the magnetic field that Nie Tian formed around him couldn't last permanently.

The magnetic field was shrinking by the second.

The moment the magnetic field disappeared completely would be the time when Zhao Mo heartlessly murdered Nie Tian.

“What should we do?”

The same question rose in everyone's mind, everyone except Zhao Mo. Each and every one of them racked their brains for a way to defeat Zhao Mo.

As of that moment, the magnetic field that had wreathed Nie Tian had already shrunk to the point where it could only cover a one-meter range.

The chaotic and distorted magnetic field was soon going to disappear completely. However, the four of them realized that none of them could figure out a way to turn the situation around.

Fortunately, the cold, strong wind that had been biting their skin slowly vanished while Nie Tian and Zhao Mo were caught in a standoff.

Apparently, Zhao Mo could only change the direction and the speed of the wind but couldn't create wind out of still air. Therefore, the wind eventually calmed.

Without the fierce and ruthless cold wind, the four of them were slightly relieved. However, that was when the magnetic field around Nie Tian completely wore out.

At that very moment, a ruthless smile abruptly appeared at the corner of Zhao Mo's mouth." It's time to put an end to this!"

WHOOSH!

Numerous strands of white frost mist were once again unleashed from within Zhao Mo's body, which kept condensing and taking the shape of ice snakes that feasted on human flesh.

“Frost Snake Shadows!”

One after another, the ice snakes gradually congealed, turning from a bunch of ephemeral shadows into a tangible form.

When the cold mist was on the verge of reaching him, Nie Tian found that all of the ice mist had already condensed and morphed into dozens of extremely lifelike, icy snakes.

Each and every one of the ice snakes were imprinted with Zhao Mo’s psychic consciousness. It was as if they had been infused with wisps of Zhao Mo’s soul.

Feng Luo was on the ground behind Nie Tian. When he saw the dangerous situation, he rushed over roaring, hoping to help Nie Tian block the attack.

However, the moment he moved, a large number of blood-colored ice shards swiftly shifted their positions, blocking his way without leaving the smallest of gaps.

“Run!” Feng Luo cried.

The ice snakes rushed forth, baring their fangs. Face grim and cold, Nie Tian had a sudden moment of enlightenment. His gaze landed on his bracelet of holding as he prepared to take out one of the talismans that his master had bestowed upon him.

However, when his psychic power entered his bracelet of holding and swept through his belongings, he saw that the Flame Dragon Armor was releasing raging flames.

“Flame Dragon Armor...”

A light flashed across Nie Tian’s eyes. After a moment of hesitation, he experimented by sending a request for help to the Flame Dragon Armor.

Even though Zhao Mo’s cultivation base was quite lofty, his cultivation attribute was frost power.

On the other hand, the flame power that the Flame Dragon Armor constantly released was precisely the nemesis of frost power. These two powers were incompatible as light and darkness. Once they ran into each other, they wouldn’t give up until the more valiant and powerful side annihilated the weaker side.

Almost in the same moment that he sent out a thought requesting help, an answer was given.

In the next moment, the Flame Dragon Armor whizzed out from within Nie Tian’s bracelet of holding.

As soon as the Flame Dragon Armor came out, heaven and earth became as hot as a sea of fire. In a flash, the numerous ice snakes that were about to bite Nie Tian’s skin melted into water.

Seconds later, the water vaporized because of the excessive heat and vanished into thin air.

“Flame Dragon Armor!”

Zhao Mo, who was fairly certain that the ice snakes would finish off Nie Tian, suddenly had his expression flicker. Immediately later, strands of blood flowed out of the corner of his eyes.

The numerous ice snakes were formed as a result of the condensation of Zhao Mo’s fully refined frost power and psychic power, and thus could be considered to be the extension of his limbs!

As the result of the ice snakes melting, the spiritual power and psychic power that he had gone great lengths to refine instantly turned to nothing, severely damaging his body!

However, the thing that had truly astonished him was not the injuries on his body but the Flame Dragon Armor!

Zhao Mo came from the Realm of Dark Underworld. Lai Yi, the person who had brought the Flame Dragon Armor to the Realm of Flame Heaven, was also from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

From the way Zhao Mo looked, he obviously knew about the origin of the Flame Dragon Armor, and knew what the Flame Dragon Armor meant and represented.

After seeing that Nie Tian was able to summon the Flame Dragon Armor from his storage bracelet, and that the Flame Dragon Armor also seemed to have healed its damage... Zhao Mo actually no longer dared to stay!

After shooting one last glare toward Nie Tian, he dashed away with the fastest speed possible.

His figure seemed to have turned into a beam of cold light and soon disappeared into the distance.

Meanwhile, the Flame Dragon Armor was still floating in the air and unleashing raging flames, bringing burning summer heat to the ice-cold star river.

Nie Tian, along with Yu Tong, Feng Luo, and Zheng Bin, all stared blankly towards the direction which Zhao Mo escaped into, at a loss for words.

They simply couldn't believe their own eyes when they saw Zhao Mo running for life after the mere sight of the Flame Dragon Armor.

Chapter 155: Exposed

“He just ran off like that?”

Scratching his head, Nie Tian gradually descended from midair, face filled with confusion and disbelief.

At the same time, the Flame Dragon Armor was still floating there above him, unleashing flaming energy to disperse the coldness in the air.

Feng Luo, Yu Tong and Zheng Bin all looked up at it, flabbergasted.

“That set of armor...”

Feng Luo suddenly remembered that when they were in the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, he and Yu Tong had seen the Flame Dragon Armor collecting Earthflame Crystal Strings not far away from them.

However, it had flown away soon afterwards, and he never saw it since.

By that time, he had already been convinced that the Flame Dragon Armor was a Spirit Channeling grade treasure, something rarely seen in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven.

He saw perfectly clearly that it flew out of Nie Tian's bracelet of holding just now. Did it just answer Nie Tian's summoning? Did that mean that Nie Tian was its master!?

At that moment, he suddenly remembered the giant fire dragon that appeared out of nowhere during Nie Tian and Yu Tong's last fight.

He combed through these thoughts and soon come to the realization that the Spirit Channeling grade treasure must indeed belong to Nie Tian!

"I can't believe that Wu Ji loves this disciple of his so much that he even bestowed a Spirit Channeling grade treasure upon him while he is still in Lesser Heaven stage." Thinking to himself, Feng Luo's eyes glittered with a strange light.

"Spirit Channeling grade treasure!" Zheng Bin gave a soft exclamation.

FIZZ!

At that moment, due to the fact that Zhao Mo had fled and the Flame Dragon Armor was releasing a scorching heat, the previously frozen blood strings gradually unfroze and regained their life force, relieving the crisis hanging over Yu Tong's head as a result.

Yu Tong, who was certain that she would die beyond a shadow of

a doubt, was still sitting in place, but a faint shade of redness appeared on her originally pale face.

As Nie Tian landed on the ground, he noticed that the numerous scarlet blood strings morphed into lines of blood-colored light, flashing into her body.

With every blood string that entered her body, her face gained another bit of redness. Her injuries seemed to be rapidly recovering.

With the frost power gone, the blood in the small pond next to Feng Luo also unfroze and began churning again.

WHOOSH!

Without any hesitation, Feng Luo cast a spell within his mind and the blood in the pond immediately flew into his body.

Almost simultaneously, he seemed to be in good spirits again. He sat down, took out a dark-red medicinal pill, and swallowed it.

He no longer paid any attention to the Flame Dragon Armor, nor did he ask Nie Tian about it.

Yu Tong was still focused on collecting her blood strings. However, she couldn't help but spare Nie Tian glances from time to time, her eyes once again devilish and beautiful.

Although hatred could still be seen in her gaze, a hint of curiosity could be found hidden in that intense hatred.

She seemed to be wondering how many secrets Nie Tian had.

The rage punch, the Spirit Channeling grade treasure, and the chaotic magnetic field... All these mysteries that Nie Tian had revealed one by one finally put her heart at ease regarding how she had been repeatedly defeated by him.

However, the thought of what Nie Tian had done to her later made her grit her teeth with hate. The desire to fight him once again rose in her heart.

“Thanks to you, we’ve survived another fight, Nie Tian.” Zheng Bin from the Mystic Mist sect heaved a sigh of relief as he dropped to the ground and took out some spirit stones to recuperate.

As far as he was concerned, he was in no position to ask about the Flame Dragon Armor, and Nie Tian probably wouldn’t give straight answers even if he did. Therefore, he said nothing.

After Zhao Mo from the Realm of Dark Underworld left, the other three had been surprisingly quiet, which made Nie Tian rather uncomfortable.

“Why did that Zhao Mo turn around and run at the mere sight of the Flame Dragon Armor? What was he afraid of?” Staring at the

Flame Dragon Armor that was still floating in the air, he murmured quietly as he searched for an answer in his head.

After a moment of fruitless pondering, he also sat down on the ground and started restoring his strength with a spirit stone.

This time, he also took out a Flame Crystal.

He had consumed some of the flame power within him to form the chaotic magnetic field, and the best way to replenish it was with a Flame Crystal.

He quietly operated the Flame Spirit Incantation.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The floating Flame Dragon Armor seemed to have received some kind of signal and suddenly shone with a bright light.

However, it didn't fly back into Nie Tian's bracelet of holding, but rather dove down from midair and stopped about five meters away in front of Nie Tian's chest.

SHEW!

A fine strand of translucent and sparkling Earthflame Crystal String shot out of the Flame Dragon Armor and entered Nie Tian's palm.

Not only did the Earthflame Crystal String carry extremely rich flame power, it also carried the profound truth of flame power deep within itself.

With the operation of the Flame Spirit Incantation, the Earthflame Crystal String rapidly followed Nie Tian's meridians up his arm, before stopping in the vortex of flame power within his spiritual sea.

As soon as it allowed the Earthflame Crystal String inside, the small vortex of flame power started to madly revolve!

One after another, fiery sparks splashed out of the vortex of flame power, before flowing to the far edge of the vortex. Apparently, the vortex of flame power was refining the Earthflame Crystal String.

While Nie Tian was flabbergasted by what was happening to him, the Flame Dragon Armor had already turned into a cloud of fire and disappeared into his bracelet of holding.

Nie Tian didn't feel a thing when it did, as he was completely absorbed by the fascinating changes in the vortex of flame power within his spiritual sea.

He saw that numerous fire sparks were flying out of the eye of the vortex of flame power and landing on the edge of the vortex, extending its radius.

Nie Tian could keenly sense that the small vortex of flame power was expanding at a noticeable speed!

At the same time, it seemed that numerous unknown, fiery, magical symbols had seeped out of the Earthflame Crystal String and merged into the vortex of flame power.

For some unknown reason, the moment those fiery, magical symbols merged with the vortex, Nie Tian was struck by a feeling that his understanding of flame power had reached a whole new level.

When he had cultivated the Flame Spirit Incantation days before, he found quite a few areas that were difficult to understand.

He originally planned to go back to Cloudsoaring sect and ask for enlightenment from his master when the Heaven Gate trial was over.

However, all the parts that he had a hard time comprehending seemed to have solved themselves in front of him when he contemplated them now.

He felt like his mind had been suddenly opened up when the Earthflame Crystal String was refined in his vortex of flame power.

Nie Tian was both excited and amazed by how much the Earthflame Crystal String had boosted his cultivation of the Flame

Spirit Incantation. He also realized that it was a gift from the Flame Dragon Armor.

After all, the Flame Dragon Armor was a Spirit Channeling grade treasure that possessed its own soul. After sensing that he started cultivating a fire-attributed incantation, it had decided to lend him a hand.

“What a precious treasure!”

Nie Tian inwardly cheered over how lucky he was to have obtained the Blood Core and the Flame Dragon Armor.

As he looked back, his life seemed to have taken a turn for the better only after he had found out about the unique features of the Blood Core and explored it with Flamecloud Gems.

...

At the same time...

Like a beam of cold light, Zhao Mo was still racing away at a speed so fast that he could travel hundreds of meters within a second.

He seemed to have a certain destination in mind. He constantly checked the meteors around him as he dashed forward.

Meanwhile, he unleashed his psychic awareness to scan the surroundings, as if he was searching for something.

Only after traveling for over an hour, and being separated from Nie Tian by dozens of gigantic meteors, did his psychic awareness finally lock onto his target.

SHEW!

Zhao Mo dashed towards it at full speed.

Moments later, he found the one he had been looking for on a bumpy, uneven meteor.

It was a man with hair that was as red as fire. With a burly, robust frame, he had detailed flame patterns on his bare arms.

At first glance, his naked arms seemed as if they were wreathed in blazing flames.

“Zhao Mo! What are you doing here?” The man frowned and said with an unfriendly tone, “The fifty meteors in this region belong to me. Don’t tell me you’re here to steal my territory!”

With these words, two beams of flickering, fiery light shot out of the man’s eyes, which made him look incomparably terrifying.

“No, that’s not why I’m here!” It seemed that Zhao Mo was

perfectly aware of how formidable the man was, and hurriedly explained, “I know that we have an agreement. I would never try to steal from you! Tang Yang, since we both are from the Realm of Dark Underworld, I’ve come here to tell you something!”

“What is it?” Tang Yang seemed to have run out of patience.

“The Flame Dragon Armor that Lai Yi took to the Realm of Flame Heaven is now in the possession of a Lesser Heaven stage trial taker. And that kid summoned it in front of me just now!” Zhao Mo exclaimed.

“What?!” A tremor ran through Tang Yang’s body. “Are you sure it was the Flame Dragon Armor?”

With a bitter smile, Zhao Mo nodded heavily and said, “And the Flame Dragon Armor has already merged with the Blood Core!”

Upon hearing these words, the fiery light in Tang Yang’s eyes became even more violent and terrifying.

“Where is he?!” Tang Yang roared.

“I’ll take you to him!” Zhao Mo replied as he got ready to move out.

Chapter 156: Heavy Casualties

Nie Tian slowly awoke from his cultivation.

After this round of cultivation, the vortex of flame power within his spiritual sea had expanded to three times as large as it had been before.

Not only that, thanks to the Earthflame Crystal String, he obtained a much deeper understanding of the flame power.

As for the difficult points that he had run into while practicing the Flame Spirit Incantation, he also found the answer to each and every one of them, which caused him to acquire new enlightenment regarding this specific fire incantation.

He had a feeling that it wouldn't be long before he could make a breakthrough in his cultivation base and step into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

“Flame Dragon Armor, Earthflame Crystal Strings...”

With a serious face, he unleashed a wisp of his psychic awareness into his bracelet of holding, and saw that the Flame Dragon Armor was now wreathed by placid flames.

Therefore, he was certain that the Flame Dragon Armor's soul was still digesting the profound mysteries within the Earthflame Crystal Strings in a way that he couldn't comprehend at the

moment.

The Flame Dragon Armor and its soul would only fully awaken when they completely refined all the Earthflame Crystal Strings collected from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range.

By that time, it would be a lot easier for Nie Tian to communicate with the Flame Dragon Armor's soul.

Feng Luo looked over at Nie Tian as soon as he opened his eyes. "You're finally awake."

Nie Tian nodded. "How are you doing?"

Feng Luo smiled bitterly. "I'm afraid it'll be hard for me to fully recover within the Heaven Gate. I suffered major injuries and lost vital energy from both fights against Zhao Mo. Nie Tian, I think we should get out of this place as soon as possible. I fear that Zhao Mo will return soon. When he does, I bet he'll return with methods to deal with that Spirit Channeling grade treasure of yours."

"You're right." Nie Tian agreed with him. "We can't stay here for long."

"Little Tong! Zheng Bin!" Feng Luo softly called out to them, waking them from their cultivation. "We need to evacuate this place now so that Zhao Mo won't be able to find us easily. We'll spend as much time as we want to recuperate once we find a location that's safe enough."

After hearing these words, Yu Tong and Zheng Bin both rose to their feet.

“Which direction did you come from?” Feng Luo asked Nie Tian.

Nie Tian pointed in the direction that he and Zheng Bing had come from and said, “There.”

“What’s the situation over there?” Feng Luo asked.

“Nothing special,” Nie Tian replied. “We didn’t find anything there. We spent a long time wandering around, but didn’t run into any powerful foreign expert other than Jia Peng. That was the reason why we left that area and came to this area to explore.”

“It wasn’t that nothing went on over there.” Feng Luo shook his head and told him the truth. “The reason why you found nothing going on over there was that you settled it by killing Jia Peng.”

“What do you mean?” Zheng Bin asked, puzzled and surprised.

Feng Luo went on to explain, “According to Zhao Mo, all the cultivators from the other realms reached an agreement before entering the Heaven Gate. When they stepped into the Heaven Gate, each of them would take charge of a certain area. All the cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven within that area would become their prey.

“The area that you came from was allotted to Jia Peng. He was responsible for all the cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven in that area.

“However, the area we are in is Zhao Mo’s territory. Zhao Mo told me during our first fight that if we go further in this direction, we’ll enter the area that belongs to another Realm of Dark Underworld cultivator, Tang Yang.

“All of those foreign cultivators view us as nothing more than animals waiting to be slaughtered.”

Zheng Bin gave a cold snort and said, “Well, did they? I beg to differ. The two of us killed Jia Peng, didn’t we?

Feng Luo looked off into the distance, as if he was trying to get a hold of his bearings. “Only the result will tell us who is the hunter and who is the prey.”

After awhile, he said, “Let’s go in that direction. Hopefully, we’ll be lucky enough to come across some powerful experts from the seven sects. Only by joining hands with cultivators from the seven sects, will we have a chance of surviving the fights against those people from the other realms.”

“That sounds good.” Nie Tian and Zheng Bin both gave their assent.

Immediately afterwards, they left the meteor under Feng Luo’s

leadership, and marched in the direction that he had indicated.

In the meantime, Feng Luo constantly sent his psychic awareness into their surroundings, carefully scanning for signs of life, in case they might run into foreign cultivators who were as powerful as Zhao Mo.

Lucky for them, they didn't discover any signs of life or abnormal movements near them along their way.

After passing eight gigantic meteors in succession, the four of them arrived on an oval-shaped meteor that was just as enormous as the ones that they had passed.

“There's a dead body over there!” Having a superior sight, Feng Luo spotted a corpse that had been dead for an unknown period of time.

From the way the man dressed, Feng Luo could tell with certainty that he was a trial taker from the Ghost sect. The cold air in the starry sky had already frozen the corpse. It seemed that the man had been penetrated by a sharp tool and died.

The Heaven Gate pattern on the back of his hand had already been plundered, along with the bracelet of holding on his wrist.

Upon a closer look, Feng Luo immediately recognized the man. “That's Wang Luo. He was in late Heaven stage.”

Zheng Bin walked up to the corpse and squatted down. After a brief examination, he said, “From the look of it, he’s been dead for a long time. It seems that there are foreign trial takers in this area.”

Looking a bit distracted, Yu Tong asked, “Should we keep going?”

By that point, Nie Tian and Zheng Bin had already replenished their strength. Even though Yu Tong and Feng Luo hadn’t recovered to their peak state, they were ready for another fight if it came down to it.

If they kept marching forward, it would be extremely likely that they would run into another powerful expert from the other realms.

By that time, they would be forced to fight, whether they wanted to or not.

“Being scared of them won’t do us any good.” Not even the slightest fear could be seen on Nie Tian’s face. “I’ve long since readied myself for the fierceness of the Heaven Gate trial. Plus, isn’t the purpose of us being here to kill those bastards from the other realms and let them know that the Realm of Flame Heaven will never be blithely trampled upon by anyone, right? Now that their seniors and masters want a piece of the Realm of Flame Heaven, let’s show them what we are made of and kill them all in the Heaven Gate!”

Feng Luo nodded vigorously, looking at Nie Tian with undisguised admiration. “I’ll never doubt Senior Wu Ji’s eye for talent again! Although you’re only in Lesser Heaven stage, you’ve proven yourself to be resourceful, and more importantly, you understand the greater good. I only thought you were ballsy when it came to girls. Now I know that you’re also quite daring while facing major issues!”

After hearing the part where Feng Luo said Nie Tian was ballsy when it came to girls, Yu Tong’s face instantly flushed.

She cast Feng Luo a cold glare first, and then turned to stare viciously at Nie Tian. “Nie Tian! You and I are far from over! There’ll be a battle between the two of us after we finish the Heaven Gate trial!”

Nie Tian gave a forced chuckle and then said, “You should know that for every time that you’ve lost to me, you had...”

Upon hearing these words, Yu Tong exploded with rage as she charged towards Nie Tian, threatening to kill him right away.

“Alright, alright!” Feng Luo hurriedly stopped them. “Can you two pick another time to do this? Do you really want to bicker while powerful killers are lurking around?”

Fearing that the bickering would escalate into a fight, Feng Luo instantly pointed in a direction and marched on, indicating for everyone else to follow him.

Zheng Bin's gaze switched between Nie Tian and Yu Tong for a while, and with a soft chuckle, he sped towards Feng Luo.

“Nie Tian! You just wait and see!” Yu Tong threatened with a cold tone.

Nie Tian seemed indifferent as he said, “You think I’m scared of you? I can tell you right now that when I beat you next time, I’ll...” Eyes glittering with a strange light, Nie Tian openly laid his gaze on Yu Tong’s ample chest before immediately leaping forward with a broad laugh.

“Nie Tian! I’m gonna kill you!!” Screaming, Yu Tong chased after Nie Tian.

After chasing for a while, Yu Tong seemed to have truly been provoked by Nie Tian, and her body was once again wreathed in a faint blood aura.

Her eyes turned red and devilish. However, it didn’t make her look sinister, but instead gave her a dangerously charming look.

“Stop it, you two!”

Traveling at the forefront of the group, Feng Luo let out a stern shout as he suddenly came to a stop.

On a huge stone in front of him lay the corpse of a Qi warrior from the Blood sect. The head had been separated from the body,

and the blood around his neck had already been frozen.

Utterly discomfited, Yu Tong couldn't help but let out a screech as soon as she saw the corpse. "Uncle Han!"

She was no longer in the mood to settle her grudge with Nie Tian.

A pained expression could be seen in Feng Luo's eyes. "Just like me, Han He was also in the early Greater Heaven stage. I didn't expect him to die like this." He stepped forward and reattached the man's severed head to the body, so as to honor him with a "full-body death". Face grim, he looked off into the distance and said, "It seems that we don't have a choice now. Whoever is awaiting ahead of us, I'll have their head!"

"Damn them! They killed Uncle Han!" Yu Tong's eyes glittered with blood-colored light.

SHEW!

Feng Luo no longer attempted to hide his whereabouts as he bounced high into the air, traveling forward at a high speed.

Nie Tian and the others followed him closely.

They saw many more dead bodies along their way, all of which belonged to Qi warriors from the Ghost sect, Blood sect, Mystic Mist sect, and Grayvale sect.

The most powerful one among the dead was a middle Greater Heaven stage expert from the Grayvale sect.

Even Nie Tian, who had claimed that he had no fears, felt as if a shadow had been cast over his heart after seeing the numerous corpses of powerful experts scattered around on the ice-cold ground.

Every one of the dead had a cultivation base higher than his, but none of them had escaped death.

Therefore, he was convinced that the foreign Qi warrior who was in charge of this area must be very powerful, maybe even more powerful than Jia Peng and Zhao Mo.

It was very likely that the man was in the late Greater Heaven stage.

He didn't have the confidence that the four of them combined could match up to a late Greater Heaven stage expert.

However, he knew for sure that after seeing their butchered fellow sect members, Feng Luo and Yu Tong were already determined to avenge them, no matter how great the consequences would be.

From Feng Luo and Yu Tong's eyes, Nie Tian could tell that whoever that man was, and however strong he was, they would

still find him and fight him.

“That man must be on that meteor!” Face filled with shock, Feng Luo exclaimed as he looked into the distance and saw a meteor that was almost five times the size of the nearby ones.

Having a sight superior to his peers, Nie Tian was the second one to get a clear sight of the enormous meteor.

Astonishment immediately stretched across his face.

Upon a closer look, he saw that there seemed to be a dilapidated city on that shockingly gigantic meteor.

Chapter 157: Corpses in the Starry Sky

“There’s a city!”

Feng Luo’s face turned grim as he apparently didn’t expect there to be a dilapidated city within the Heaven Gate.

Surprised, Yu Tong and Zheng Bin also came to a stop. They followed Feng Luo and Nie Tian’s gazes and looked off into the distance. However, they could only see the vague outline of a enormous structure, and couldn’t tell for sure what it was.

The shockingly large meteor that the city was sitting on was about an hour away from where they were standing.

By that time, they all realized that the reason why they had seen more and more corpses along their way was that they had been getting closer and closer to that city.

Feng Luo turned to Nie Tian and asked, “Can you get a clear view of that city?!”

Nie Tian nodded.

A surprised expression could be seen on Feng Luo’s face, since Yu Tong, who had a cultivation base higher than Nie Tian’s, was still narrowing her eyes and trying very hard to get a clear look of the city.

However, by the shocked expression on Nie Tian's face, Feng Luo was fairly certain that he had seen that city.

While everyone else was still looking toward the distant, dilapidated city, Zheng Bin, who had an inferior sight, had long since given up. He pointed to a nearby place and said, "There're two more dead bodies over there..."

On the ground lay two frozen corpses in the Spiritual Treasure sect's garments. Both of them had their heads cut off.

Feng Luo took a look at them. With an expression that was already somewhat numb, he said, "I believe all these men died because of that city."

At that time, even Feng Luo, who had been eager to avenge his fellow sect members, had gradually calmed down.

They had seen quite a few corpses of middle Greater Heaven stage experts along their way to the city. He could imagine how fierce the battles were going to be inside.

According to his speculations, fierce battles were taking place within that city at this very moment.

It was just because they were too far away from it that they couldn't see or sense them.

The numerous corpses had made Feng Luo think about the

consequences and weigh things over again.

On one hand, he was already a bit shaken and doubted that the four of them would be able to come out of the city alive if they chose to barge in.

On the other, after seeing so many powerful experts be drawn to that city like a moth to flames, he was extremely curious about why that city was so attractive to them.

“Well...” Feng Luo’s gaze swept through the other three before finally stopping on Nie Tian. “As you all have seen, there are more and more dead bodies along the way as we get closer to that city. I bet you’d agree that their deaths had something to do with that city. There must be something within the city that’s been attracting people in the vicinity.

“If we go over there, it’s possible we could get killed before we can even reach the city gate.

“If we managed to get inside the city, we would undoubtedly face even bigger challenges and danger and there would be a higher chance that we will be killed. I want you to think it over and then tell me your decision!”

“How about... we circle around it?” Zheng Bin said in a low voice.

Yu Tong had already calmed down and her bloodshot eyes had also returned to normal. Apparently, she was aching over the

tough choice. On one hand, she wanted to avenge her fellow sect members. On the other, she feared that she would get herself killed by approaching the city.

She didn't give an answer right away.

"Let's get down there and have a look!" Nie Tian said with decisiveness.

Feng Luo looked deeply at Nie Tian and with a nod, he said, "I envy your fearlessness."

Nie Tian grinned.

Perhaps motivated by Nie Tian's attitude, Feng Luo pondered the situation for a moment and gave his answer, "I want to take a look over there too. I know I'll live the rest of my life in regret if I don't!"

"Good! It's settled then. I'll go too!" Yu Tong also made up her mind.

"Since you're all going. I have no choice but to go with you guys." Helplessness was written all over Zheng Bin's face.

He realized that he was the weakest among the group. He knew that if he ever parted ways with Feng Luo, Nie Tian, and Yu Tong, and ran into any foreign cultivator, he would end up being killed.

Therefore, even though he knew perfectly well that great danger lay ahead, he chose to go with everyone else.

“Let’s go!” Feng Luo took a deep breath and wisps of blood aura immediately flew out of him and into the surroundings. “Stick together everyone! Don’t get far from each other! I’ll slow down as we travel forward so that you’ll be able to keep up and we won’t be separated if anything were to happen along our way.”

“Understood!” Zheng Bin said loudly.

Under Feng Luo’s leadership, the four of them paid close attention to their surroundings as they approached the city at a relatively slow speed.

Several minutes passed.

As they were marching along a slender stone protrusion, passing from one meteor to another, Feng Luo’s expression suddenly flickered. He called out, “Watch out for what’s in the starry river beside you!”

Nie Tian’s eyes widened as he turned his head to look at the vast starry sky on both sides of the stone protrusion.

He saw numerous corpses, which clearly neither belonged to humans nor belonged to the same species, floating silently in the starry sky.

With a single glance, he could tell that some of them belonged to the same species as the demons that had escaped from the Hell sect's Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation.

The demon corpses were gigantic, extremely muscular, and wore armor with interesting and exotic patterns.

Unlike the demons that had escaped from the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation, they had accessories, armor, and sharp weapons on them.

From their dilapidated state, the weapons probably had undergone many years of erosion, and had long since lost their energy.

Aside from the large demons, there were numerous outsiders of other kinds; some had multiple eyes, some had long tails, some were covered in dense body hair, and some had scales all over their body.

Nie Tian looked blankly at them for a while before his expression suddenly flickered. "Outsiders! There are so many of them! It seems that a bloody war once broke out between them in this river of stars! But how come the bodies didn't fall after they died, but rather floated in the starry sky for all eternity? Does it..."

He suddenly looked towards the dilapidated city and said, "Does it have something to do with that city?"

Upon hearing Nie Tian's words, the other three, who were still amazed at the scene of the numerous outsider corpses, grew even more curious about what secrets were hiding within the city and what the outsiders had been fighting over.

"Let's go!" Feng Luo exclaimed. "Whatever happens, I want an answer!"

As of this moment, even the most reluctant Zheng Bin had become intrigued, as he was also determined to march over to the city and find the answer.

SHEW!

Without spending much effort, Feng Luo shot into the air, as if he only had the weight of a feather.

Just as Nie Tian was about to follow Feng Luo and leap forward, intense battling sounds suddenly echoed out of the meteor that they were heading to.

One dazzling light after another shot into the dim, starry sky in front of them, like numerous shooting stars.

"There are people fighting over there!"

At that moment, Zheng Bin and Yu Tong snapped out of their

daze and readied themselves for battle.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The three of them followed Feng Luo as they rapidly flashed past the stone protrusion and landed on the mentor in front of them.

This meteor was right next to the gigantic meteor that the city was located on.

As soon as they passed this meteor, they would be able to find out what was happening on the meteor where the city was located.

CLANK! CLANK!

The clashing sounds of spiritual tools rang out from the meteor ahead of them, along with occasional cursing.

Feng Luo, who was dashing forward wreathed in a thick, bloody mist, pulled out a long saber that shone with a terrifying blood-colored light from his back, and asked, “Who is it?”

“Feng Luo! Is it Feng Luo?” A voice that sounded both surprised and elated rang out before Feng Luo could see the person. Apparently, that person was also from the Blood sect, since he was able to tell it was Feng Luo’s voice in such a short time.

“Shi Xuan!” After racking his brains for a moment, Feng Luo also

recognized the voice of that person. He immediately accelerated, leaving Nie Tian and others behind.

Nie Tian sped up after Feng Luo.

Before long, he arrived at a place that was covered in a thick blood aura and discovered that Feng Luo was already fighting a Qi warrior from the other realms.

Behind him sat a Qi warrior from the Blood sect, gasping for air, blood continuously flowing out of his back and arms.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

At the same time, numerous shadows that had been condensed out of blood were hovering in the air as they constantly attacked the foreign Qi warrior from every direction.

With a look at the foreign Qi warrior, Nie Tian realized that he had seen him before entering the Heaven Gate.

The man was able to spare the energy to check out and taunt Nie Tian while fighting Feng Luo. “Good. Another one that has come to his own grave. Four more Heaven Gate keys delivered to my door.”

Upon hearing these words, Nie Tian took a closer look at the man’s left hand, and discovered that there were six dots of red light on the back of his hand.

This meant that he had already slaughtered five people and snatched their Heaven Gate keys.

BOOM!

At that very moment, a heaven-shaking, earth-shattering sound thundered out from within the dilapidated city, which now everyone had a clear view of.

The tall and majestic city shook violently, as if it were on the verge of collapsing.

Chapter 158: Waiting for You to Enter!

RUUUUMBLE!

Heaven-shaking, earth-shattering rumbling sounds rose up from the dilapidated city, along with beams of multi-colored light.

All of a sudden, the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian's hand grew scaldingly hot, as if it had been triggered by the changes that were taking place inside the city.

“Hmm?” Eyebrows knit together, the foreign Qi warrior who had been fighting Feng Luo seemed to have noticed the fluctuations emanating from the city.

He instantly rained more deadly attacks on Feng Luo, as if he was in a hurry to finish him off and rush to the city as quickly as possible.

“Yee? What's going on?” With a surprised look on his face, Zheng Bin looked down at the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of his hand.

Not only him, Shi Xuan and Yu Tong also experienced unusual sensations from the Heaven Gate patterns on their hands as soon as the loud sounds echoed out.

Yu Tong snapped out of her daze and rushed to Shi Xuan's side. “Are you okay, Uncle Shi?”

She took out a dark-red medicinal pill and handed it over to him.

Shi Xuan, who had already retreated from his battle with the foreign Qi warrior, seemed completely spiritless as blood kept dripping down his garments.

He was standing in a pool of blood that emitted a strong blood aura into the surroundings. It was hard to know if it was his own blood or if it was created by the secret blood technique that he had cast.

Without without the slightest hesitation, Shi Xuan grabbed the medicinal pill from Yu Tong's hand and swallowed it.

However, he didn't sit down to recuperate, but rather clenched his jaw and bolted to Feng Luo's aid as they attacked the foreign Qi warrior together after a brief adjustment.

“Du Huang! You've killed many of my fellow sect members. Don't you even think about trying to escape the Heaven Gate alive!” As Shi Xuan let out an angry roar, the blood suddenly flew out of the blood pool and swirled up into the air before condensing into a blood cloud. Within the murky blood cloud, dark shadows were quietly taking shape, gradually strengthening the power of the blood cloud.

Upon hearing Du Huang's name, Zheng Bin's expression slightly flickered as he turned to Nie Tian and explained, “He's Du Huang from the Realm of Earth Sieve! A powerful cultivator in middle

Greater Heaven stage who has mastered the art of lightning power!

“Although Feng Luo and Shi Xuan are both in early Greater Heaven stage, Shi Xuan has clearly sustained heavy injuries. I’m afraid he won’t be able to provide much help to Feng Luo. Therefore, even if the two of them gang up on Du Huang and attack him at the same time, I doubt that they will beat Du Huang.”

Nie Tian’s eyebrows knitted together. “Du Huang...”

As a matter of fact, Nie Tian had long since discovered that even though Shi Xuan’s attacks were still seemingly fierce, he was actually quite frail at the moment.

Nie Tian unleashed his psychic power and sensed that the life fluctuations within Shi Xuan’s body were already rather weak, which meant that Shi Xuan had already overdrawn his life and potential.

It wouldn’t be long before Shi Xuan lost all battle power.

If Feng Luo hadn’t rushed to his aid, given a short while, Shi Xuan would have completely worn out his energy and been killed by Du Huang.

In Nie Tian’s eyes, they clearly couldn’t count on Shi Xuan to help Feng Luo defeat Du Huang.

On the other hand, after recuperating for some time, Feng Luo had restored his strength and healed his injuries. However, he was still only eighty percent of his peak state.

Meanwhile, Feng Luo had an early Greater Heaven cultivation base, which was one minor stage inferior to Du Huang's. Adding in the fact that he wasn't in his peak state, he wouldn't be able to stand a chance against Du Huang, even if there were no mishaps.

After pondering the situation for a moment, Nie Tian realized what Zheng Bin meant by saying those words. Zheng Bin wanted him to join the fight.

"He's the one who killed so many of my fellow sect members!" Yu Tong's eyes once again shed their black color and took on a red color.

Gazing coldly at Du Huang, who was currently fighting fiercely with Feng Luo in midair, she quietly unleashed a Blood sect secret magic.

One after another, numerous threads of blood-colored light shot out into the surroundings from underneath her feet. Like a cobweb, they interwove with each other as they rapidly spread out.

She wanted to condense the Earth Web again.

Nie Tian was still focused on the intense fight between Du Huang, Shi Xuan, and Feng Luo. Without sparing Yu Tong a

glance, he stared at the bloody light that resembled snakes slithering rapidly in the air.

However, the lightning released by Du Huang was swimming in the sky like formidable dragons, crushing the blood snakes one by one.

Seeing this, Du Huang grinned viciously as numerous dark-green Thunder Pearls floated around him.

Each and every one of them shook unceasingly, as if they were controlling the green-blue lightning dragons and continuously enhancing their might.

“The Might of the Thunder!” Seemingly worried that he would miss what was occurring inside of the city, Du Huang suddenly switched to another spiritual incantation.

Immediately, the Thunder Pearls surrounding him flew up into the sky.

They came to a halt high up in the starry sky, and instantly grew incomparably bright and dazzling, like stars that stood out in the night sky.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

In a flash, numerous thick, long lightning bolts were born from the middle of the circle of Thunder Pearls.

One after another, they shot like raindrops down to where Feng Luo and Shi Xuan were, forming a fence of lightning bolts, completely surrounding the two.

As soon as the formation was completed, the lightning dragons that had been fighting the blood snakes seemed to have been instantly bolstered, and smashed every last one of the blood snakes in a few seconds.

Feng Luo and Shi Xuan let out muffled groans at the same time, their eyes filled with anxiety and fear.

They both noticed that they had been besieged by lightning bolts that were even thicker and carried even more copious lightning power!

“Dammit!” Feng Luo exclaimed at the unfavorable situation.

At the same time, Shi Xuan’s pale face was now completely devoid of any color.

His pupils shrunk while his body fell uncontrollably down towards the earth.

Nie Tian, Yu Tong, and Zheng Bin, who had been standing on the meteor’s surface below them, realized that Shi Xuan had used up all his energy and lost all his battle power.

At that moment, Shi Xuan was so weak that any Qi Refining stage cultivator would be able to kill him effortlessly.

FIZZ!

A thick, long lightning bolt broke free of the formation and shot after Shi Xuan.

From the look of it, Du Huang intended to take the opportunity to annihilate Shi Xuan before he could hit the ground.

“Nie Tian!” At that crucial moment, Feng Luo called out Nie Tian’s name without thinking.

Looking at Nie Tian from far up, Feng Luo’s eyes were filled with supplication and urgency. He hoped Nie Tian could step forward and help him save Shi Xuan’s life.

Subconsciously, he believed that only the strangely resourceful Nie Tian would be able to help Shi Xuan escape death.

Nie Tian realized that it was too late to form the chaotic magnetic field. After a moment of hesitation, he took out an Ice Blast Pearl and threw it up toward the lightning bolt that was after Shi Xuan.

The Ice Blast Pearl shot up at an amazingly fast speed, and intercepted the bulky lightning bolt when it was still quite a distance from Shi Xuan.

BAM! BAM! BAM! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

Lightning sparks splashed out in all directions. Countless ice shards and ice blades, accompanied by cold light beams, shot out into the surroundings the moment the Ice Blast Pearl exploded, causing splendid and dazzling icy light and fragmented lightning to cloak the sky.

“Ice Blast Pearl!!” Feng Luo’s expression flickered. Face filled with fear, he sped away at the fastest speed possible.

The explosion of the Ice Blast Pearl gave rise to a formidable ice storm, engulfing every single one of the large lightning bolts that Du Huang had condensed.

Numerous icy light beams and lightning bolts interwove in midair as they madly attacked each other, which formed quite a spectacle to everyone present.

PUFF!

Du Huang, who was concentrated on manipulating his lightning bolts, coughed up a mouthful of blood. As soon as he did, six of his Thunder Pearls shattered into pieces.

Face pale, Du Huang glowered at Nie Tian, eyes wreathed in boundless killing intent.

All of a sudden, he sped away from Feng Luo and Shi Xuan, and roared towards Nie Tian, making him his primary target. “Die, you little bastard!”

RUUUUMBLE!

Even more intense energy fluctuations rolled out from the remaining Thunder Pearls.

In Nie Tian’s eyes, Du Huang seemed to have turned into a giant lightning bolt himself as he thundered toward him with the intent to utterly annihilate him.

At that moment, Feng Luo held up his long saber that suddenly emanated scarlet light from its tip. The bloody light seemed to have extended the incomparably sharp blade by more than ten meters. Carrying a raging blood aura and an desperate killing intent, Feng Luo slashed towards Du Huang’s back. “Go to hell!”

Du Huang was completely focused on Nie Tian at that moment, and thus was totally off guard when it hit him on the back.

POOH!

Although he wasn’t cut in half by the violent attack, his flesh was sliced open, and blood poured out of the wound like water.

Eyes fixed on Nie Tian, he fell from the air. The way he fell was clearly uncontrolled as he had already lost control of his fleshy

body.

Apparently, Feng Luo's attack had inflicted great damage to him.

However, his cold, ferocious gaze was still locked on Nie Tian, as if he was still thinking about killing Nie Tian with his inner powers as soon as he got close enough.

When he fell near Nie Tian, Nie Tian's chaotic magnetic field had already expanded to a three-meter range.

BANG!

The moment Du Huang fell into the magnetic field, the spiritual power and psychic power inside of him was instantly distorted.

Within seconds, he lost control of all the power within him.

"You kept me waiting for so long!" With a grin, Nie Tian took out a sharp blade that he had looted from Jia Peng's bracelet of holding, and thrust it into Du Huang's forehead without any hesitation.

Like a giant nail, it went straight into Du Huang's skull.

Du Huang died instantly.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The scarlet light dots on the back of his hand seemed to have detected the death of their host and flew out, before they entered the Heaven Gate pattern on Nie Tian's hand one by one.

Nie Tian looked down and delightedly watched as six red dots were added to the back of his hand.

Chapter 159: The Floating City

BAM!

At that moment, Shi Xuan landed heavily on the surface of the meteor.

However, the sky over his head was still filled with cold light and fragmented lightning, which seemed dazzling and splendid.

Shi Xuan fell hard onto the ground five meters in front of Nie Tian. Muddleheaded, he painstakingly opened his eyes and looked toward Nie Tian, confusion filling his face.

Then he looked over at Du Huang, who was lying on the ground right in front of Nie Tian, and saw that a sword had pierced into his forehead.

With another look at Nie Tian, he noticed that there were already seven light dots on the back of Nie Tian's hand.

Only then was he finally convinced that it was Nie Tian who had killed Du Huang.

“Wu Ji's disciple...” Shi Xuan stared blankly at Nie Tian. “Admittedly Wu Ji is a good mentor, but this kid is only in the Lesser Heaven stage. How on earth did he manage to kill Du Huang at the last moment?” He couldn't figure out how Nie Tian had done it.

At that moment, Yu Tong, who originally wanted to use the Earth Web to bind Du Huang, also came to a stop.

SHEW!

Feng Luo landed softly next to Nie Tian. Looking at the seven light spots on the back of Nie Tian's hand, he said, "Good job, kid!"

His compliment was sincere.

When it was a moment of life and death, he didn't think of Yu Tong or Zheng Bin. He subconsciously called out Nie Tian's name, hoping he could save Shi Xuan's life.

This meant that deep down, Feng Luo had already acknowledged Nie Tian's strength and believed that he was stronger than Yu Tong and Zheng Bin.

As a result, Nie Tian didn't let him down. First of all, he had used the Ice Blast Pearl to relieve Shi Xuan's crisis. Then, when Du Huang fell into the chaotic magnetic field after taking a slash in his back, Nie Tian had killed him with a clean, fast move.

"I didn't do much." Nie Tian gave a smile. "It was only because you severely injured him that I found an opportunity. If it weren't for your deadly attack, Du Huang wouldn't have lost control of himself, and therefore wouldn't have fallen uncontrollably into my chaotic magnetic field."

Feng Luo let out a broad laugh and said, “Well, thanks to your Ice Blast Pearl, his spiritual incantation lost effect. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have suffered from the backlash and I wouldn’t have had the chance to sneak up on him from behind. You deserve the six Heaven Gate keys from Du Huang. Not only that, it’s only fair that you get the majority of the loot within his bracelet of holding.”

Only then did the idea of dividing the loot hit Nie Tian. He yanked the bracelet of holding off of Du Huang’s wrist, in an attempt to divide the treasures within right away.

Feng Luo waved his hand, stopping Nie Tian. “There’s no rush. You keep it for the time being. We still have unfinished business ahead of us.”

He looked towards the dilapidated city.

“I see.” Nie Tian didn’t say anything else. He put Du Huang’s bracelet of holding on his wrist and also gazed towards the dilapidated city that was on the meteor right next to theirs.

From time to time, multicolored light shot out into the dark sky from within the enormous city, making the city seem increasingly mysterious.

“How are you doing, Shi Xuan?” Feng Luo asked, his voice almost a growl.

Face filled with bitterness, Shi Xuan shook his head and said, “I’m afraid I won’t be able to recover in a short time. And if I were to encounter any other hostile trial taker, I could only wait to be killed. I think it’s better that I stay away from that city.”

“Okay.” Feng Luo didn’t try to persuade him. Rather, he took out a small bottle of medicinal pills and tossed it to Shi Xuan. “These are some medicinal pills from our sect. Take them. When you get enough strength to move about, get out of this place. If my speculations are correct, I’m afraid there is more than one powerful foreign expert in that city. It’s not safe for you to stay here for too long.”

“I understand.” Shi Xuan nodded as he assumed the lotus position. Without any hesitation, he opened the bottle, swallowed the medicinal pills within, and started circulating his spiritual power to stimulate the efficacy of the pill.

“Take care of yourself,” Feng Luo said. With a glance at the other three, he turned around and marched toward the dilapidated city.

It appeared that he was bent to go by himself, and didn’t want the three of them to go with him.

After all, in his eyes, there might be good fortune hidden within the city. However, one might have to pay an unbearable price to obtain that fortune.

He wasn’t certain in the slightest that approaching the dilapidated city would be a good idea.

Therefore, he had no intention of asking any of them to go with him.

WHOOSH!

Without the least hesitation, Nie Tian, who had just obtained six red dots, walked up to Feng Luo.

Yu Tong seemed torn with indecision. After a moment of pondering, she said, “Uncle Shi, I’ll stay here with you.”

She decided to give up the chance.

“That’s good...” Shi Xuan let out a sigh and said, “The way I see it, you made the right decision. There are surely many other opportunities in the Heaven Gate trial. You don’t have to go to that dilapidated city. As long as you stay alive, I bet you will come across other opportunities.”

Yu Tong gently nodded her head. “Yeah, I guess you’re right.”

Zheng Bin’s expression seemed quite embarrassed as he said, “Well... I’ll stay too. That way we can keep each other company.”

Apparently, he had been frightened by the brutality and fierceness of the battles, and thus gave up the idea of pursuing the truth. He decided that staying alive was his number one priority.

From the look of it, Du Huang was the only one between them and the city.

Feng Luo and Nie Tian marched towards the city and saw no one along their way.

After passing a long stone bridge, the two of them finally reached the exceptionally gigantic meteor where the city was located. With a single glance, they saw numerous figures flashing about in front of the city.

“Uncle Li! Uncle Liu!” Upon a closer look, Nie Tian realized that Li Fan and Liu Yan were among the numerous figures who were fighting tooth and nail outside of the city.

Although the city looked dilapidated from afar, when multicolored lights were unleashed from within the city, it made the place seem magnificent and solemn.

Only at that moment did Nie Tian finally discover that the seemingly shaking and swaying city was actually not sitting on the meteor surface, but rather floating in midair.

The city was floating approximately ten meters above the meteor surface, as if it was completely unaffected by gravity.

It seemed to be constantly swaying, but in actuality, it was rapidly shifting its position.

Numerous, densely-packed, strange magical symbols that Nie Tian had never seen were engraved on the antiquated city wall; some of them resembled the sun, the moon, and the stars, some resembled tree patterns, while others looked like the claws and fangs of ancient beasts. They all looked intriguing in their own way. It was hard to tell if they were from the language of a certain species or drawings of everything in the universe.

Terrifying energy fluctuations kept rippling out of the city.

From the look of it, the strange energy fluctuations weren't hurting anyone. All the Qi warriors who had absorbed them didn't seem to experience any anomaly in them. On the contrary, enjoyment could be seen in their eyes.

It was as if they were able to gain some kind of enlightenment from the energy fluctuations that were emanating out of the city.

Four powerful experts from the other realms were rounded up by cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven in four separate spots in front of the city. However, not a single trace of fear could be seen on their faces as they dealt with their opponents with ease.

While Nie Tian was observing the battlefield, a Qi warrior from the seven sects was killed by one of the foreign cultivators. The Heaven Gate pattern on his hand instantly vanished, turning into a red light dot that flew into the killer's hand.

Nie Tian was certain that he had seen the face of every one of

those foreign cultivators before entering the Heaven Gate.

One of the foreign cultivators had a sword that kept emanating green flames in his hand. He was none other than the man who had killed a disciple from the Mystic Mist sect right before entering the Heaven Gate, not giving any face to the Hell sect.

Nie Tian sensed that the man was probably a powerful expert with a late Greater Heaven stage cultivation base.

The other three seemed just as powerful. Each of them had about ten red spots on the backs of their hands, which signified their feats.

One light spot meant one kill.

Numerous corpses were scattered not far from the city, most of which were cultivators with late Heaven or early Greater Heaven stage cultivation bases.

Liu Yan was fighting the foreign cultivator with the sword that emanated green flames. His expression flickered when he accidentally caught sight of Nie Tian. “Nie... Nie Tian?!”

At first, he was surprised that Nie Tian was able to get to this place.

After all, every one of those who managed to get to this place had gone through countless bloody battles, and many were brutally

murdered on their way. Only about ten of them were lucky enough to make it this far.

After the initial surprise, Liu Yan grew worried for Nie Tian, thinking Nie Tian was out of his mind by putting himself in such great danger while he only had a Lesser Heaven cultivation base.

“You shouldn’t be here!” Liu Yan shouted. “Get out of here now!”

SHEW!

A faint, green sword-light flashed across Liu Yan’s chest while he spared the attention to talk to Nie Tian.

With a muffled sound, a narrow wound was cut open on his chest. Immediately afterwards, pus flowed out of it, as if the wound had already begun festering and rotting.

After hearing Liu Yan’s words, Li Fan turned around and saw that it was really Nie Tian standing not far away from them. He hurriedly said, “Kid! Get as far away as you can from this place if you don’t want to die!”

Since it was too urgent, Li Fan had no time to address Nie Tian with the regular courtesy by calling him little martial uncle.

“Where are Jiang Lingzhu and the others?” Nie Tian asked in a loud voice.

“Lingzhu is too weak for a fierce battle like this. We’ve arranged for her to stay in a safe place.” Then, a pained look could be seen from within Li Fan’s eyes as he continued, “But most of the others are dead.”

Nie Tian’s expression flickered as he took another glance at the dead bodies scattered in the vicinity. Surely, a few of them were disciples of the Cloudsoaring sect.

FIZZ!

At that moment, a small cluster of green flames splashed onto Li Fan’s shoulder.

In a split second, his shoulder started to fester, as if it was contaminated by some extremely toxic liquid.

Rapidly and decisively, he used his sharp blade to cut away the skin and flesh that had been infected, as if it was the only way to stop the fester from spreading.

“Get out of here! Now!!!” Li Fan let out an thundering shout.

Chapter 160: Mysterious Symbols

Nie Tian noticed that after Li Fan cut off the infected flesh, it fell to the ground and completely rotted away in seconds.

“Miao Chen’s spiritual power is tainted with poison!” Nie Tian’s expression changed drastically.

He inwardly respected Li Fan’s decisiveness as he was fairly certain that if he didn’t act so fast, the fester would have spread out rapidly to his whole body.

Reluctance to get rid of the festered part would have resulted in him losing that arm within a short time.

Standing next to Nie Tian, Feng Luo looked coldly at the Qi warrior with the sword that kept releasing green flames, his face especially grim. “That’s Miao Chen from the Realm of Black Marsh. He’s in the late Greater Heaven stage!”

Since Feng Luo was a senior member of the Blood sect, and the Blood sect was close to the Hell sect, he had heard of many of the Qi warriors that had traveled to the Realm of Flame Heaven through the Hell sect.

Miao Chen was the one who had left him the deepest impression.

“You know that man?” Nie Tian asked.

He didn't respond to Li Fan and Liu Yan's warnings, as he had already made up his mind and readied himself for what was awaiting him when he decided to come over with Feng Luo.

He didn't have even the slightest intention to retreat.

Brow furrowed, Feng Luo said in a manly voice, "Yes, I do. You need to pay extra attention to that man, Nie Tian. Among all the realms in the Domain of the Falling Stars, Qi warriors from the Realm of Black Marsh are the vilest and are extremely hard to deal with. Most of them are experts with poisons and toxins. Every corner of the Realm of Black Marsh is filled with toxic air and miasma, causing the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth they cultivate with to carry toxins.

"As the result, their spiritual power contains various kinds of toxins. Whenever their spiritual power makes contact with a person's skin and enters that person's flesh, then..."

Feng Luo looked toward Li Fan, eyes filled with respect. "Remember, if those green flames ever touch your skin, you must immediately cut off that piece of flesh like the way Li Fan did. Only in that way will you be able to minimize the damage and preserve your battle prowess.

"The more reluctant you are to cut yourself, the more the deadly poison will rot away your healthy flesh!"

After uttering these words, Feng Luo pulled out his long saber that radiated blood-colored light. Emanating a strong blood aura

himself, Feng Luo dashed toward Miao Chen from the Realm of Black Marsh.

Besieging Miao Chen were Li Fan, Liu Yan, another late Greater Heaven stage expert from the Hell sect, and an early Greater Heaven stage cultivator from the Mystic Mist sect.

Even though he was being attacked by four powerful cultivators at the same time, Miao Chen seemed to have no problem handling the lot of them.

He made Hong Can, the cultivator from the Hell sect, his main target.

Since the other three were only in the early Greater Heaven stage, he didn't attach any importance to them.

A number of green flames were hovering around Miao Chen. Like fireflies in the night sky, they unceasingly released an uncanny, green light into the surroundings as they slowly swayed in midair.

Only those green flames alone were capable of injuring Li Fan, Liu Yan, and the cultivator from the Mystic Mist sect, keeping them from approaching.

Every now and then, the green flames would suddenly shoot away from Miao Chen and chase after the three of them, as if they had their own consciousness.

Whenever this happened, Li Fan and the other two would hurriedly retreat and avoid their attacks, fearing that they be infected by the fire that seemed to be from the underworld.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

All of a sudden, a cluster of green flame whizzed towards the Qi warrior from the Mystic Mist sect.

Seeing that it flew right towards him, the man hastily condensed all of his spiritual power and formed a shield of white mist around him.

Even though the bright shield seemed as delicate as a cicada's wings, it could provide very strong defense. However, the moment the green flame made contact with it, corrosion spread out rapidly from the contact point.

No one expected that not only could the green unearthly flame fester human flesh, but it could also corrode the light shield formed by spiritual power.

The man's face turn pale with fright. He hastily cut the link between him and his light shield, and retreated with all his power. Only by doing that did he barely escape a calamity.

Gasping for air, the Mystic Mist sect cultivator looked at the green flames with an expression of utter terror.

“They really are vicious!” Nie Tian’s expression flickered.

By that time, Nie Tian had come to a brief estimation of the situation of the four battles. He was fairly certain that the battle against Miao Chen was the most fierce one.

From what he could tell, the reason why Feng Luo didn’t rush to attack the other three foreign experts, but instead Miao Chen, was that he had also deemed Miao Chen to be the strongest and the hardest to deal with among the four.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

One after another, light beams of various colors once again shot out from within the dilapidated city. Simultaneously, a surge of strange energy fluctuations spread out into the surroundings.

The floating city once again swayed about and shifted its position.

Coincidentally, the city shifted closer toward the place where Nie Tian was standing, causing the energy fluctuations to closely reach Nie Tian before they dissipated into the air.

The moment the eccentric energy fluctuations reached Nie Tian, the seven scarlet, light dots on the back of Nie Tian’s hand suddenly grew scaldingly hot.

At the same time, he had the feeling that the dots on his hand

seemed to have absorbed something.

With rapt attention, he looked down at the light dots in the Heaven Gate pattern. Not only did he find them to be even more dazzling and bright, it seemed that they had been imprinted with a number of complicated, mysterious symbols .

Confused and intrigued, Nie Tian lifted his head and looked toward the floating city in front of him. To his surprise, he found that there seemed to be less magical symbols on the city wall than there were before.

“What?!...” He suddenly realized that the strange symbols on the city wall had entered the seven red dots on his hand came.

Furthermore, he believed that only those with Heaven Gate patterns on their hands would be able to obtain the mysterious symbols from the city.

Originally, he only had one light dot in the Heaven Gate pattern on his hand.

After killing Du Huang, he had absorbed six more light dots.

It suddenly struck him that it was very likely that the more light dots one had, the more magical symbols they would be able to receive when energy fluctuations rippled out from within the city and reached their body.

The Qi warriors from the other realms must have always known about the existence of the miraculous, floating city within the Heaven Gate.

They probably also knew about the numerous, magical symbols on the wall of the city, along with the fact that the more light dots one had on their hand, the more fortune one would be able to gain from the city.

That must have been the reason why they plotted with each other and spread out to their assigned territory to slaughter Qi warriors from the Realm of Flame Heaven.

They did all that to gain more benefits from this Heaven Gate trial.

At that very moment, Nie Tian felt a sudden suction force from the seven red dots on his hand, pulling him forward.

He immediately looked towards the dilapidated city.

After standing in place for a long time, he subconsciously started to step closer towards the city under the influence of the energy fluctuations.

He sensed that as long as he remained enveloped by the energy fluctuations, he wouldn't need to spend any effort and the seven light dots on his hand would automatically take in magical symbols hidden within the energy surge.

Moreover, it appeared that the closer he got to the city, the more intense the energy surge he could receive, therefore the more benefit he could collect.

He finally came to realize why so many powerful experts would slaughter their way towards this city from all directions.

After all, the more light dots one possessed, and the closer one got to the city, the more fortune one would obtain.

In fact, people could have gotten along with each other as they approached the city together and used their own light dots to collect those magical symbols.

However, greed seized them when they learned that those light dots on their hands could be snatched!

It was especially true with the cultivators from the other realms. Knowing perfectly well that they possessed superior strength, they naturally started the massacre after seeing that cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven were trying to get a share of their resources.

They did it to obtain more mysterious symbols from the city.

By this point, Nie Tian had fully understood the secrets behind everything.

Without even the slightest hesitation, he stepped towards the floating city. Meanwhile, the burning sensation from the seven dots on his hand grew stronger as he approached the city.

Just as excitement rose in his heart, the energy fluctuations suddenly stopped.

The unprecedented, magical feeling of absorbing the mysterious symbols into his body disappeared with it.

“Yee!?” Off to the side, another foreign Qi warrior caught sight of Nie Tian. Elation and greed immediately filled his eyes.

He noticed that there were as many as seven light dots on the hand of this Lesser Heaven stage youngster in front of him.

“Interesting!” With a chuckle, he instantly made Nie Tian his target.

Chapter 161: A Change in Heart!

That person was Kan Xingming, a middle Greater Heaven stage Qi warrior from the Realm of Earth Sieve.

His cultivation attribute was the wood power, [one of the five fundamental element powers](#). The three people that besieged him came from the Ghost sect and Grayvale sect, and all of them were in the early Greater Heaven stage.

Kan Xingming wore a bizarre set of spiritual armor, which appeared to be made of petrified vines and willow leaves and apparently contained the essence of plants and vegetation.

The aura that he emanated was full of a special kind of life force, as if it could nourish plants and had other mysterious uses.

The spiritual weapon that he used was a wooden staff that was dark-green in color. It also carried a strong life force, and within its natural wood vein pattern seemed to lay the true essence of wood power.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

One after another, numerous rattan vines flew out of his spiritual armor and effortlessly intercepted the violent attacks of the three people surrounding him.

He stealthily glanced at Nie Tian.

Although all three of his opponents were in the Greater Heaven stage, there were only a total of five scarlet light spots within the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of their hands.

This meant that even if he slaughtered the three of them, he would only be able to obtain five light spots.

However, not far away from him was Nie Tian with seven red dots on the back of his hand, while he was only in the Lesser Heaven stage.

As long as he could kill Nie Tian, the gains he would obtain would far surpass those from painstakingly killing those three powerful experts.

Therefore, he moved closer towards Nie Tian in a slow and inconspicuous fashion, while shielding off the attacks of the three people around him.

Greed and a strong killing intent shot out of his eyes.

“Go!” All of a sudden, a fresh, green leaf broke away from the chest area of his spiritual armor. It was as if the leaf itself possessed a consciousness as it floated straight towards Nie Tian.

It seemed that the fresh, green leaf was floating and shaking as it flew forward, but actually it traveled at an extremely fast speed.

In only five seconds, the leaf was already quite close to Nie Tian. It also rapidly expanded to the size of a palm-tree leaf and intended to wrap Nie Tian within it.

Only by that point did Nie Tian, who was slowly stepping towards the dilapidated city, suddenly sense the unfavorable situation.

However, it was too late. The large leaf continued to expand and swiftly attached itself to Nie Tian's chest.

As soon as it made contact with Nie Tian, it immediately grew roots, which reached deep into his flesh, as if it had turned into a terrifying plant.

The flesh power within his body was pulled by a bizarre force as it madly flowed toward that leaf.

As the green, fresh leaf greedily absorbed Nie Tian's flesh power, it mutated at an astonishing speed, and soon turned into a strange plant, enveloping Nie Tian.

One sharp thorn after another grew from the plant and penetrated into Nie Tian's flesh.

The newly-born plant madly sucked on Nie Tian's life essence and flesh power.

Kan Xingming's eyes were brimming with brutality and mania.

With a deep laugh, he licked his lips and said with a complacent tone, “Not bad. The essence within the kid’s flesh and blood is quite pure. I never anticipated that a Lesser Heaven stage brat would possess flesh power so rich and copious. I just hit gold!”

Apparently, the leaf that he had unleashed could grow into a strange plant that fed on the flesh power of living creatures.

Moreover, the flesh power the plant had absorbed could be guided into Kan Xingming’s body through secret arts, which enabled him to rapidly replenish his own injuries and also enhance his battle prowess.

Originally, he had thought that Nie Tian, who was only in Lesser Heaven stage, wouldn’t possibly have such rich flesh power within him.

However, when he noticed that the leaf kept sucking flesh power out of Nie Tian’s body for quite some time, he laughed more and more happily.

“Awesome! This is awesome!” From what he saw, it would not be too long before Nie Tian’s flesh power would be completely drained.

By that time, not only would he be able to obtain plentiful flesh power from Nie Tian, he could even collect seven scarlet light spots by killing Nie Tian.

With seven more light spots, Kan Xingming would be able to take in even more magical symbols, and therefore gain more fortune.

Off to the side, Li Fan, who had been constantly dodging the attacks of the green flames, glanced over towards Nie Tian while fighting, and saw the dangerous situation that he was in. “Nie Tian!”

At that moment, Nie Tian had already been wrapped up by a huge plant and his robust body was becoming more shriveled by the second as the pure life essence within every corner of his body was rapidly being drained.

With a loud shout, Li Fan alerted Feng Luo and Liu Yan. The two of them immediately noticed Nie Tian’s situation.

Feng Luo looked slightly surprised. He seemed to feel that Nie Tian shouldn’t be so easily stopped and controlled.

However, he didn’t seem very anxious after seeing that Nie Tian had almost been engulfed by the large plant.

The reason was that he discovered that Nie Tian’s expression wasn’t filled with fear and despair.

Despite having fought side by side with Nie Tian against Zhao Mo and Du Huang, Feng Luo still wasn’t able to fathom Nie Tian’s true strength. However, he was fairly confident that Nie Tian wouldn’t be killed that easily.

Therefore, he didn't immediately rush to Nie Tian's aid, but rather decided to keep observing.

On the other hand, Li Fan and Liu Yan's hearts were burning with anxiety as they both wanted to rush over and free Nie Tian from the dangerous situation.

Kan Xingming seemed to have noticed their intentions, and called out, "Brother Miao, take good care of your opponents."

Miao Chen arched his lips as he seemed to think that Kang Xin Ming was giving his opponents too much credit. "Don't worry. None of them shall even dream of interrupting you."

With these words, numerous green, ghost-like flame clusters stormed toward Li Fan and Liu Yan.

Immediately after that, Li Fan and Liu Yan were rounded up by the flame clusters and were only able to move about to dodge their attacks within a very small space. From the look of it, there was no chance that they could break free from the water-tight besiegement.

As anxious as the two of them were, they had to figure out a way to handle the corrosive power within the green flames.

Otherwise, before long, they would be devoured by the flames, turned into two set of pale-white skeletons, and broken into pieces

after falling to the ground.

“Damn it!” Li Fan cursed. He had long since told Nie Tian to get as far away as he could from this place, but not only did Nie Tian not listen to him, he even was so daring as to approach the dilapidated city, as if he actually had a death wish!

Finding himself at his wit's end dealing with the flames that had trapped both him and Liu Yan, Li Fan grew increasingly mad at Nie Tian and his blind audacity.

“My life essence is wasting away, my flesh is shriveling and blood is drying up...” Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian sensed the changes within him with rapt attention. He looked relatively calm and no fear could be seen on his face.

Although he couldn't move his arms and legs, if he wanted to, he was able to summon the Flame Dragon Armor from within his bracelet of holding, or trigger one of the life-saving talismans that his master had bestowed upon him.

However, he didn't.

The reason was that when he was completely wrapped up by the plant and his life force was slowly sucked away, a strange feeling was born in his heart.

He felt excited!

His heart throbbed vigorously, as if it was yearning for something.

He had always known that he was different from ordinary people.

Compared to others, his psychic power was stronger and his fleshy body was sturdier. He could even continuously temper his own body by consuming spirit beast meat.

Although he had come across great danger in many occasions before, strange changes had always occurred to his heart when he was on the verge of dying.

All those strange encounters had proven that there were definitely secrets hiding within his body.

Furthermore, Hua Mu had once told him that he might be able to reveal some of his secrets during the Heaven Gate trial.

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

His heartbeat grew stronger and stronger as his life force faded away.

Gradually, he started to feel dizzy due to the significant loss of life force. However, he entered a strange state at that moment, and his soul consciousness seemed to have floated to where his heart was.

Muddleheaded, he saw dazzling light suddenly shoot out from the vessels within his own heart.

His blood vessels seemed to have turned into transparent crystal tubes, within which countless strange sparks flickered. The light seemed to be constantly evolving, as if his heart was undergoing a profound change that he couldn't comprehend.

BOOM!

A violent tremor suddenly struck his mind, and after his soul consciousness returned to his head, he snapped out of the mysterious state.

In the next moment, an aura that was full of violence and domination emerged abruptly from within his heart.

The unusual plant that had wrapped him up suddenly started to wither at a speed that was visible to the naked eye.

The rich life force that the plant had sucked away from Nie Tian's body returned back into his body in an extremely short time.

His wizened body also expanded rapidly like a ball that was being inflated.

Within only several dozen seconds, he recovered to his original look once again. He was in high spirits and appeared to be uninfluenced in the slightest.

Meanwhile, the plant wilted, was reduced to flying dust, and disappeared completely as he shook his body with relief.

The Wu Xing is also known as the Five Elements, Five Phases, the Five Agents, the Five Movements, Five Processes, the Five Steps/Stages and the Five Planets of significant gravity (Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury, Venus, Mars)

It is the short form of the five types of Qi dominating at different times. It is a fivefold conceptual scheme that many traditional Chinese fields used to explain a wide array of phenomena, from cosmic cycles to the interaction between internal organs, and from the succession of political regimes to the properties of medicinal drugs. The “Five Elements” are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. This order of presentation is known as the “mutual generation” sequence. In the order of “mutual overcoming”, they are Wood, Earth, Water, Fire, and Metal.

The system of five phases was used for describing interactions and relationships between phenomena. After it came to maturity in the second or first century BCE during the Han dynasty, this device was employed in many fields of early Chinese thought, including seemingly disparate fields such as geomancy or Feng shui, astrology, traditional Chinese medicine, music, military strategy, and martial arts. The system is still used as a reference in some forms of complementary and alternative medicine and martial arts.

Chapter 162: Bloodline!

As the plant turned into flying dust, Nie Tian opened his mouth and laughed loudly. “Good, it feels good.”

That plant had developed from a leaf that contained pure wood power.

And apparently, the wood power was only a branch of life power.

Not only did the unusual heartbeat cause Nie Tian to restore the life energy that he had lost to the plant, but it even channeled the wood power that was stored in the leaf into his body as well.

As soon as the wood power dispersed into his flesh and blood, it made his vital energy become even more vigorous.

He felt that his energies and spirits had reached a state of fullness that had never been achieved before.

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

At this moment, his heart was still beating unusually strongly and still had no sign of settling down.

A thirst that originated from his heart seemed to be urging him to absorb even more wood energy and obtain even more vital energy to strengthen his flesh and blood.

He abruptly looked towards Kan Xingming and saw the panic and cluelessness on his face.

Besieged by three Qi warriors, Kan Xingming distracted himself by observing Nie Tian from time to time. His movement in controlling the vines had even started to become a bit stiff.

“There are even more leaves on that man’s spiritual armor that contain rich wood power...” Muttering to himself, Nie Tian probed into his own heart, and slowly came to the realization that the abnormality of his heartbeat seemed to have developed from its strong thirst for wood power.

He subconsciously stepped towards Kan Xingming.

WHOOSH!

Kan Xingming, who was fighting near the dilapidated city wall, dropped from the sky. He snorted and once again shot two fresh, green leaves out from the chest area of his spiritual armor.

The two leaves continuously evolved and released an odor that could twist all living things as they floated towards Nie Tian.

However, Nie Tian’s expression didn’t even change in the slightest. He continued to step closer despite the fact that the two leaves were coming his way.

It was because at this moment, he felt that the thirst in his heart had become unprecedentedly raging and fierce!

He even had a feeling that even though the two leaves were unearthly items refined by the Greater Heaven stage Kan Xingming, they would absolutely not hurt him!

His confidence originated from the thirst and the excitement in his heart!

BANG BANG BANG!

His heartbeat was still growing faster. An extremely complicated life fluctuation suddenly exploded from within his heart and spread out into his surroundings, with him being the center.

The eye-catching veins on the two leaves seemed to be instantly affected.

Nie Tian looked at them with rapt attention. He realized that the two leaves, which were traveling at a high speed towards him, had evolved. They had developed into two slender, flexible vines, and like spiritual snakes, they intended to bind around Nie Tian's neck.

BANG!

Along with the vigorous beating of Nie Tian's heart, both of the green vines seemed to be suddenly taken over by a mysterious force.

The green vines that resembled vipers suddenly broke free of Kan Xingming's control. The psychic communication between him and the green vines was forcefully cut off by a mysterious and advanced power.

Kan Xingming's expression changed drastically. The sudden elimination of the psychic power that he had attached to the green vines had inflicted a minor injury on him.

In Kan Xingming's eyes, the two green vines were supposed to drop down to the ground due to the effect of gravity, since they had already escaped his control.

However, they stopped right before Nie Tian's chest and floated there.

Shocked, he watched as Nie Tian slowly reached out his hand to touch one of the green vines, without even a smidgen of hesitation in his eyes.

The moment Nie Tian's finger touched it, the green vine instantly released pure wood power!

The wood power that Kan Xingming had spent many years collecting and refining turned into dark-green, drifting light as it swiftly flew into Nie Tian's finger.

A layer of faint, dim-green aura flourished within Nie Tian's

body, causing him to seem rather mysterious.

It wasn't long before all of the wood power in the green vine was completely drained by Nie Tian.

WHOOSH!

Having lost all of its wood power, the green vine disintegrated and turned into flying ash.

Fear stretched across Kan Xingming's face.

BOOM!

A fierce evil spirit, summoned by an expert from the Ghost sect, ruthlessly rammed into Kan Xingming's back.

Kan Xingming was sent staggering.

Meanwhile, the spirits of the two Qi warriors from the Grayvale sect were lifted. They both manipulated their spiritual tools to madly attack him as he stumbled back.

On the other hand, Nie Tian didn't bother to check Kan Xingming's situation, but rather once again extended his hand with a concentrated look in his eyes, and reached towards the other green vine.

Upon contact, the green vine was also quickly drained of all wood power and turned into flying dust just like the last one.

Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian remained calm and collected as he silently used his psychic awareness to pry into the abnormality of his heart.

It could be because his cultivation base was too low and his psychic power hadn't congealed into soul power, that he failed to enter his heart to conduct a thorough investigation and unveil the mysteries within.

He could only faintly feel the wood power that he had taken in seemed to have already merged with his own blood.

His blood carried the pure wood power as it slowly flowed towards his throbbing heart .

His heart was being nurtured as it continued to take in wood power, as if it were in a state where it was gradually awakening.

His eyes were wide and his face was filled with disbelief. "Bloodline!"

He didn't know why, but he was very certain that bloodline power was now flowing within his body. Or to be more precise, his heart!

His master Wu Ji had once told him that bloodline power would

often exist in the outsider races who had incomparably valiant bodies.

Numerous years ago, the formidable outsider tribes, whose power had been unmatched across the entire river of stars, were only able to be known as the mighty masters of the universe because of their bloodline power, their innate valiant bodies, as well as their lifespans that were much longer than humans’.

Only an extremely small number of human Qi warriors could awake their bloodline power, the reason being that they had outsiders among their ancestors.

Those people might be born with bloodline power. It was also possible that they could awaken their bloodline power at some point as they grew up and built up their strength.

It seemed that he belonged to the latter.

His whole life, he thought that there had been something unusual about his heart, but never did it occur to him that a formidable bloodline power was hiding inside of it.

Only after he had taken in enough wood power to nourish his heart, did the bloodline power that was hidden deep inside finally show a sign of awakening.

“Could it be that... my father isn’t human?” Overwhelmed by the thought, Nie Tian wondered.

He was one hundred percent certain that his mother was a member of the Nie clan, and there weren't any records of their clan members having relationships with anyone from an outsider tribe in the history of the Nie clan.

The Nie clan was a human clan that couldn't be more ordinary. None of their members were born with unearthly power. All of them were born with bodies that were no different from that of commoners'.

Since his bloodline power didn't come from the Nie clan, then naturally... it must have come from his father, who he knew nothing about and had mysteriously disappeared.

“My father is either an outsider himself, or a hybrid who has outsider blood running in his veins.” Having realized his unusual birth for the first time, Nie Tian felt muddleheaded. Even still, he struggled to sort through the things that had happened to him in order to find the truth.

He had temporarily forgotten about where he was, along with the cruel Heaven Gate trial that he was in, and the floating city in front of him.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Just as he was contemplating these matters, multi-colored light beams once again shot out from within the city.

Simultaneously, the unusual energy fluctuations that had disappeared once again spread out from within the dilapidated city and rapidly rippled into the surroundings.

This time, Nie Tian, who was already very close to the floating city, was the first one to experience the unusual feeling.

In the moment the energy fluctuations dispersed into the surroundings, the seven scarlet light spots on the back of his hand instantly turned red-hot and started to shine with brilliant light.

The seven scarlet light spots were like seven bright stars as they continued to slowly swim around in the Heaven Gate pattern.

Without Nie Tian realizing it, numerous mysterious symbols were secretly taken into the seven glittering light spots.

POOH!

Also at this moment, Kan Xingming, who had three of his leaves forcefully taken by Nie Tian, seemed to have fallen into Qi deviation, and suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Face filled with hate and rage, he shot towards Nie Tian.

“It’s good that you’re coming!” With a chuckle, Nie Tian placed his palms opposite to each other and immediately started to form

the chaotic magnetic field.

All he needed was for Kan Xingming to enter it!

Chapter 163: I'll Remember You, Kid!

“Little bastard!” Kan Xingming yelled viciously as numerous thick, long vines that resembled sharp swords stabbed madly towards towards Nie Tian. “You did this! Go to hell!”

Obviously, he hated Nie Tian more than the other three!

From his point of view, if it weren't for the fact that Nie Tian had messed up his inner Qi by absorbing the wood power within those three leaves of his, causing him to fall into a Qi deviation, those three people definitely would not have been able to take advantage of the situation and inflict serious injuries on him.

He was in a terrible condition right now, and had already lost the confidence to kill the three experts from the Ghost sect and Grayvale sect.

At that moment, the only one he had the confidence to kill was Nie Tian!

Other than his hatred towards Nie Tian, there was still another reason for his strong desire to kill him.

Since Nie Tian had the lowest cultivation base, Kan Xingming was very certain that he could easily kill him and and snatch the exceptionally pure flesh power inside of Nie Tian's body.

By taking and refining all that power, he would be able to recover

his injuries within a short time.

He planned to increase his battle prowess by killing Nie Tian, thus again obtaining the strength to kill his three opponents!

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The numerous thick vines shone with fresh, green light as they whizzed towards Nie Tian.

It was also in this moment that Nie Tian, whose palms were opposite each other, successfully established the chaotic magnetic field.

Actually the coverage of the magnetic field was still limited and only reached a two-meter range with Nie Tian being the center.

Kan Xingming's deadly vines aimed for none other than Nie Tian's forehead and neck.

Since the vines would have to pierce into Nie Tian to kill him, they would inevitably have to enter the twisted magnetic field!

Just as Nie Tian had expected, the numerous vines penetrated into the magnetic field in the next moment.

The vines immediately lost their fierce momentum after falling into the magnetic field.

The vines that were originally as sharp as swords turned into soft and powerless snakes in an instant!

In a split second, the wood power within the numerous vines became violent and distorted as they were cut off from Kan Xingming's control.

The psychic power that Kan Xingming had attached to the vines had also been cut off from his commands, which caused his mind to be thrown into disordered state and a terrified look to appear in his eyes.

“Wood power!” Nie Tian grinned. After the chaotic magnetic field was successfully completed, his hands had been freed. He used them to continuously reach towards the vines that were floating inside the chaotic magnetic field.

Whenever he touched a vine, strands of emerald-green light would suddenly flow out of them.

The numerous light strands seemed as though they were influenced by the abnormal fluctuations in Nie Tian's heart. In an instant, they were pulled into his body, entered his veins, and were directed to his heart through the flow of his blood.

An excitement, accompanied by an even stronger yearning, was born in Nie Tian's heart as though his demand for the wood power had become endless.

Following the exhaustion of the wood power within the vines, every single one of them was distorted by the magnetic field, and then abruptly exploded into pieces.

Nie Tian's Qi and power had become increasingly exuberant after taking in the wood power.

He could feel perfectly clearly that the bloodline power hidden within him seemed to have made another step on its road to full awakening!

Fear stretched across Kan Xingming's face as he approached Nie Tian at a fast speed.

A deep fear suddenly rose in his heart as he now realized that if he dared to continue to attack Nie Tian with his wood power, then it would be completely useless and lost to him, like throwing a piece of meat at a dog to drive it away.

Having suffered greatly, Kan Xingming gave a muffled groan, his eyes filled with a pained look.

Cultivating wood power himself, Kan Xingming was fairly convinced that he had encountered an even higher leveled and more profound kind of power.

That magical power must be more sophisticated and formidable than the wood power, which enabled Nie Tian, who had such a low

cultivation base, to overtake him so easily.

He no longer dared to attack Nie Tian or even approach the magnetic field that enveloped him.

He was already preparing to escape.

However, it was at that moment that mad attacks from the Ghost sect and Grayvale sect experts once again rained towards him.

One after another, malevolent devils roared as they suddenly grabbed his arm and wrapped around his waist.

Nie Tian looked up with rapt attention, and saw that the devils were holding the falling Kan Xingming still in the air, and preventing him from moving an inch.

The two Grayvale sect experts continuously bombarded the middle of Kan Xingming's back with a silver-colored shield and a pearl glittering with azure light.

After one last heavy bombardment of the shield and pearl, Kan Xingming, who had been grabbed and fixed in the air by the devils, dove uncontrollably into Nie Tian's chaotic magnetic field.

As soon as he fell into the magnetic field, Kan Xingming's face, which was already covered in bloodstains, turned pale, and the light in his eyes started to fade.

In the chaotic magnetic field, Kan Xingming's psychic power, which was now the only remaining power that he had left, instantly escaped his control.

He completely lost the ability to resist!

“Hurry!” Seeing that Kan Xingming was about to die, the Ghost sect expert immediately shouted loudly and prompted his devils to rip Kan Xingming into shreds.

He did it because he wanted to seize the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Kan Xingming's hand, where he saw eight scarlet light spots!

By obtaining those eight scarlet light spots, he would take everything that Kan Xingming had obtained from his hunt into his own possession!

The two Grayvale sect experts' expressions changed drastically, as they also wanted that the last person to kill Kan Xingming to be themselves, since only the person who laid the final, life-ending strike on Kan Xingming would be able to obtain those eight scarlet light spots.

They were all indescribably excited.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Devils whizzed over one after the other. However, just as they were about to make contact with Kan Xingming, they were instantly affected by the chaotic magnetic field.

The devils suddenly became distorted and twisted, and under the violent influence of the chaotic magnetic field, they began to show signs of disintegration.

That Ghost sect expert's expression suddenly flickered, and as he urgently swooped down from midair, he forcefully stopped himself midway.

He looked at Nie Tian, eyes filled with shock and confusion, as though he couldn't fathom what was going on, and why the devils, which he had condensed with his psychic power and spiritual power, suddenly showed signs of disintegrating as soon as they were submerged in the odd fluctuations around Nie Tian.

The two Grayvale sect experts saw that he suddenly stopped and also noticed the strange changes to his devils.

The two of them also came to a stop, and floating in midair, they quietly unleashed their psychic awareness in an attempt to pry into the mysterious magnetic field.

However, the moment their psychic awareness entered the field, it immediately became chaotic and uncontrollable and their minds were bombarded with unbearable stabbing pains.

The throbbing pain made them realize how terrifying and formidable the magnetic field around Nie Tian was.

Having seen through their mind, Nie Tian laughed in a low voice and raised his hand, before violently slapping Kan Xingming's skull.

CRUNCH!

The terrifying sound of bones breaking into pieces came from Kan Xingming's skull. The only remaining life force in Kan Xingming's eyes finally dispersed completely.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

As Nie Tian had expected, after Kan Xingming stopped breathing, the eight scarlet light spots flew out and merged into the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian's hand.

Meanwhile, the pattern on Kan Xingming's hand started to fade away little by little, and before long, completely disappeared.

Soon the fluctuations of life force in Kan Xingming's corpse also vanished. However, the rich wood power within his spiritual armor persisted.

Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian stared at Kan Xingming for awhile before he suddenly took off Kan Xingming's bracelet of holding and threw it into midair.

“If it weren’t for you, we wouldn’t have been able to kill him. I only happened to be in the right place at the right time. Most of his possessions are in that bracelet of holding. You should have it.”

With these words, Nie Tian stretched out his hand and pressed it against chest area of Kan Xingming’s spiritual armor.

When his palm made contact with the miraculous spiritual armor, concentrated wood power suddenly surged out of it. Without wasting a smidgen of it, Nie Tian absorbed and channeled it into his heart little by little.

He could keenly feel the joy in his heart, and became more convinced that his heart needed the nourishment from plentiful wood power to gradually awaken his bloodline power.

He was also more certain by this point that the most important spiritual item in Kan Xingming’s possession was the spiritual armor on him.

He had the feeling that it was a bit immoral for him to obtain Kan Xingming’s eight scarlet light spots, together with the man’s most valuable item.

However, that spiritual armor was extremely helpful to the complete awakening of his bloodline power. Therefore, although he knew that it was slightly inappropriate to do so, he couldn’t afford to pass on the opportunity.

In midair.

The expert from the Ghost sect held out his hand and grabbed Kan Xingming's bracelet of holding that had flown to his chest. As soon as he used his psychic awareness to examine the items inside, his face dropped.

Indeed, there were numerous spiritual materials and medicinal pills of many kinds inside, but the majority of them had been looted from trial takers from the seven sects.

Most of the people who Kan Xingming had killed were low in their cultivation base and as such, the spiritual materials and medicinal pills that he had plundered from their possession were merely ordinary items.

None of them caught the Ghost sect expert's eyes.

Even still, Nie Tian wanted him to share those valueless items with the two experts from the Grayvale sect. This made him very discontent.

"What's inside?" One of the Grayvale sect experts asked.

"Nothing of value." The Ghost sect expert had a grim expression on his face. Annoyed by Nie Tian's behavior, he contemplated as to whether he should demand an explanation from Nie Tian.

However, at that time, the devils that he had released to kill Kan Xingming were on the verge of disintegrating in Nie Tian's chaotic magnetic field.

Keh! Keh!

Nie Tian noticed that the chaotic magnetic field had already distorted those devils beyond recognition.

He grabbed Kan Xingming's corpse with one hand and slightly shifted his position.

As soon as he changed his position, that magnetic field also followed him. Only then did those devils escape the influence of the chaotic magnetic field and once again solidify from their state of being nearly ripped apart.

"Gentlemen, these people from the other realms are our common enemies. I realize that I've taken a bit more than I should. I apologize for it.

"But I promise that I'll try my best to make it up to you in the future.

"Even if that still isn't enough to settle your discontent with me, we'll work it out after we kill all those foreign cultivators, shall we?"

Nie Tian looked up at the three experts and said with an

embarrassed smile.

“Nie Tian, Wu Ji’s disciple, I’ll remember you, kid!” The expert from the Ghost sect glared viciously at him and decided to drop it for the time being.

Chapter 164: Enlightenment!

Zou Yi from the Ghost sect threw the bracelet of holding to Guan Qiu from the Grayvale sect as he clearly didn't attach any importance to the items within. "I'm not interested in any of the things inside. You guys take it."

However, a hint of happiness could be seen on Guan Qiu's face after he caught the bracelet of holding.

Unlike Zou Yi, he was from a poor and low background and he didn't have strong backers in the Grayvale sect. As a result, he didn't have much prepared before entering the Heaven Gate trial.

Even if there were only a few spirit stones and medicinal pills in the bracelet, he would gladly take them.

Down below, Nie Tian clasped his hands towards Zou Yi and said, "Many thanks. If we loot anything in the future, I'll leave it all to you. I promise."

Zou Yi nodded and said no more. He took a glance around the battlefield, targeted another man from the other realms, and dashed straight towards him.

The two experts from the Grayvale sect also didn't bother to argue with Nie Tian seeing that Kan Xingming was already dead. They also chose their next target and rushed to attack another foreign trial taker.

Besieged by the green flames, Li Fan spared Nie Tian a glance, and found to his surprise that he was standing there unscathed, while Kan Xingming, on the contrary, was dead in front of him. He blurted, "I can't believe you survived..."

"The kid isn't even injured!" Liu Yan was also shocked at the scene while the two of them were trapped in a small space, continuously evading the erosion of the green flames and looking for a way to break away from them.

"I knew that kid wouldn't die so easily," Feng Luo muttered.

Among everyone present, he was the only one who had always believed that Nie Tian would survive Kan Xingming's attack.

That was because Nie Tian and Zheng Bin together had managed to kill Jia Peng, and after that Nie Tian had revealed a strange skill while facing Zhao Mo, causing Zhao Mo to escape in fear.

In his eyes, Nie Tian, who possessed a Spirit Channeling grade treasure and was carrying all kinds of powerful items that Wu Ji had bestowed upon him along with many secret magics at his disposal, could no longer be assessed in conventional ways.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Unusual energy fluctuations rippled out of the floating city as it quietly shifted its position without following any obvious pattern.

Standing extremely close to the city wall, Nie Tian continued to receive numerous magical symbols through the fifteen scarlet light spots on the back of his hand.

Each and every spot started to grow dazzling and blaze like stars as they adorned the Heaven Gate pattern. Furthermore, it seemed that they were also slowly rotating in a specific pattern.

He glanced through the battlefield and realized that after obtaining Du Huang and Kan Xingming's light spots, he currently had the most light spots on his hand.

Even the three foreign cultivators, including Miao Chen, didn't have as many as he did.

He started to have a feeling that since he was the one with the most light spots, the strange energy ripples seemed... to have slightly bent towards him.

In that way, he would also soon become the one to receive the most magical symbols.

“What secrets are behind all this?” he thought to himself.

While he was pondering the matter, that hand of his that was still pressed against Kang Xingming's spiritual armor and madly absorbing the rich wood power within it.

The spiritual armor that was forged with numerous leaves and vines gradually lost its glow as Nie Tian continued to channel away its wood power.

It wasn't very long before its fresh, green color completely faded away and was replaced by a dark-brown color.

When he could no longer feel the wood power from within the spiritual armor, his heart that had been thumping strangely and violently also slowly return normal.

A misty, green aura silently flowed out of him. His power and strength had reached a level of satiation that had never been achieved before.

He felt that there was a rich life force contained within his flesh, which seemed to carry secrets that were currently incomprehensible to him.

Eyes narrowed, he glanced around and immediately realized that he could now see and hear even further, and the coverage of his psychic power had also increased by a wide margin.

All these changes made him convinced that the wood power from that spiritual armor was indeed a tremendous help to him.

“Hmm?”

At that moment, he suddenly noticed that some of the wood

power that had been absorbed into his body quietly flowed into his spiritual sea.

After entering, the wood power began to swirl around at a low speed inside his spiritual sea, before it soon sped up and took the form of another spiritual vortex.

A fresh green aura surged within the vortex that was brimming with life force.

The mysterious life force seemed to be nourishing his spiritual sea and accelerating the speed of refinement and rotation of the vortex of spiritual power and vortex of flame power within.

It was at that moment that a feeling occurred to him, that he was about to break through from the early Lesser Heaven stage into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

He felt that his state of mind, his understanding of the Flame Spirit Incantation, as well as his mastery of spiritual power had already reached the critical point of breaking through.

It appeared as though he did not need to make any effort or cultivate through meditating; he would automatically step into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

Everything seemed so natural that he experienced not even the slightest discomfort. It was like how a canal formed by itself when water flowed.

WHOOSH!

The strange energy fluctuations once again gradually retreated towards the city.

Meanwhile, the scarlet light spots on the back of Nie Tian's hand that had absorbed a large amount of magical symbols also cooled down.

By this point, the number of complicated patterns and symbols on the wall of the dilapidated city had grown fewer and fewer.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The beams of rainbow-coloured light also abruptly shrunk back into the city. At this very moment, an extremely strong attractive force suddenly came from the city.

The floating city suddenly stopped swaying and became as steady as a mountain.

Loud creaking sounds came through from the four walls of the square city while four heavy, thick stone gates slowly cracked open in the city walls, where originally no gates could be seen.

As soon as the gates opened up, multi-colored light flowed out from within, forming four glorious passages leading into the city.

Everyone who was in the midst of battling simultaneously noticed the strange changes to the city and subconsciously stopped fighting momentarily as all of their attention was seized by the city.

Each and every one of them sensed a strong attractive force from within the city.

The city seemed to be summoning all those who had Heaven Gate patterns on their hands, and the more light spots a person had on their Heaven Gate pattern, the stronger summoning and suction force they could feel.

Nie Tian stared blankly at the widely opened stone gate that was the closest to him and immediately realized that he was completely unable to resist the suction force that came from within. Step by step, he headed towards that stone gate.

As for the others, they had long since harbored avaricious thoughts towards whatever was in the city. Therefore, when they felt the attractive force, they didn't even try to fight it.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

They all bolted forward like flashing lightning as every single one of them wanted to be the first to enter.

Compared to Nie Tian, who was moving towards the city step by

step, their speed was faster by god knew how many times.

BOOM!

When Zou Yi from the Ghost sect, who had long since given up attacking the foreign cultivator, stepped into the gate tunnel, he felt a strong shock to his body and a wisp of blood escaped from the corner of his mouth.

He was forced to a stop.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

All the others were also bombarded and pushed back by a strong force when they entered the gate tunnel.

Those who were the most anxious to enter were all stopped at the gate and repelled by that force, unable to step through.

From the look of it, the more light spots a person had on the back of their hand, the weaker the pushing force they would have to fight against. Therefore, Miao Chen and the other foreign cultivators had less resistance as they plodded forward.

On the other hand, since Li Fan, Liu Yan, Feng Luo hadn't killed any disciples from the other six sects, none of them had the chance to gain more scarlet light spots.

As a result, when they attempted to step through the city gate, every step forward was extremely difficult and energy-consuming.

Meanwhile, even though Nie Tian's cultivation base was the lowest, he actually walked past Zou Yi and continued forward, due to the fact that he possessed the most scarlet light spots.

Various expressions flashed across Zou Yi's face as he watched Nie Tian surpass him.

Killing intent could be seen in his eyes.

“Don't you dare do anything to him!” Li Fan shouted out loudly and dashed to Zou Yi's side together with Liu Yan, one flanking Zou Yi from each side, fearing that he could not restrain himself from attacking Nie Tian.

Even Feng Luo said, standing not far from Zou Yi, “It's the kid's fortune that he obtained the most light spots. If you want to forcibly take his fortune away, I'm afraid it will give rise to fights among the seven sects. You'd better think it over before you do anything!”

Li Fan and Liu Yan were staring coldly at Zou Yi, as if they were telling him to resist the temptation, however strong it was.

He looked at Nie Tian who was moving forward one step at a time, and turned to look at Li Fan, Liu Yan, and Feng Luo, who were glaring at him from all sides, like tigers eyeing their prey. He

finally chose to give up. “Fine, fine. Little punk! Remember, you owe me one!”

Chapter 165: Heaven Spark

Li Fan from the Cloudsoaring sect fiercely glared at Zou Yi and shouted, “He doesn’t owe you a damn thing! If you dare to make a move, don’t blame me for being rude!”

Liu Yan also had a serious expression on his face. Even though Zou Yi had expressed that he wouldn’t think of killing Nie Tian again, he still couldn’t let his guard down for fear that Zou Yi wouldn’t keep true to his words.

When they entered the city gate tunnel, they all felt the resistance and realized that the more scarlet light spots one had obtained, the easier it was to enter the city.

It meant that by madly killing disciples from the seven sects, the cultivators from the other realms were actually wanting to enter that city.

Nie Tian was five meters ahead of Zou Yi. His cultivation base was puny, yet his luck was unbelievably good, allowing him to obtain fifteen scarlet light spots. By killing Nie Tian, Zou Yi would easily strip away everything that belonged to Nie Tian.

Moreover, the Ghost sect and the Cloudsoaring sect hadn’t been friendly in the slightest, and as a matter of fact, they had only temporarily joined forces because of the calamity that was about to strike the Realm of Flame Heaven.

He wasn’t certain that Zou Yi could resist the devil in his heart.

Not only were Li Fan and Liu Yan carefully guarding against Zou Yi, they were also secretly vigilant towards Feng Luo from the Blood sect.

They didn't know that after Feng Luo and Nie Tian had fought Zhao Mo side by side, their tension had already eased up.

In their eyes, Feng Luo and Zou Yi fell into the same category: their former enemies.

They even suspected that Feng Luo favouring Nie Tian was in fact because he had ulterior motives and was purposely concealing the greediness in his heart so that he could suddenly make a move at a crucial moment.

“What are you looking at me for? I have no desire for that boy's fortune.” Feng Luo sounded a bit displeased.

Li Fan gave a loud harrumph. “I'm not you. Only you know what you are thinking.”

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

It was also at this moment that two figures flashed towards where everyone was from afar.

“Zhao Mo! Tang Yang!” Feng Luo turned his head around and a

strange look appeared in his eyes. From what he could tell, things were not looking good.

The moment Tang Yang, who had a tall and sturdy frame and numerous blazing patterns tattooed on his arms, arrived in front of the city, he asked Zhao Mo, who was by his side, “Where is he?!”

The truth was Zhao Mo, who was also from the Realm of Dark Underworld, had led Tang Yang as they trailed behind Nie Tian. Now they finally arrived caught up to them.

Standing not far from the city gate where everyone was, Zhao Mo narrowed his eyes, pointed at Nie Tian, and said, “That’s the boy I was talking about.”

Upon a closer look at Nie Tian, Tang Yang couldn’t help but exclaim, “What?! He’s got fifteen Heaven Sparks! How on earth did he obtain fifteen?” Tang Yang had an disbelieving expression on his face.

By Heaven Spark, he was referring to the fifteen scarlet light spots in the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian’s hand.

Apparently, he knew the meaning behind them and what they represented.

“Heaven Sparks?” Zou Yi from the Ghost sect softly whispered, finally learning the name of those red light spots.

“Heaven Sparks...” Nie Tian also heard Tang Yang’s words. He looked down at the red spots on the back of his hand, which had become incomparably hot, and muttered to himself, “So these things are called Heaven Sparks. From the look of it, the seven sects from the Realm of Flame Heaven know nothing about them, but those from the other realms seems to know the secrets behind them.”

“That kid is mine!” Tang Yang violently shouted as clusters of flames suddenly emerged from within him, as if he had become a person who had been engulfed in violently surging flames .

Releasing blazing flames, he blurred into action. Like a flaming meteorite, he plummeted towards the city gate where Nie Tian stood.

“Damn!” Zou Yi, Feng Luo, Li Fan, and Liu Yan, who were gathered in the city gate tunnel, had their faces turn pale with terror.

Zou Yi and Feng Luo were from the Ghost sect and Blood sect respectively. Before they entered, they had went through many channels to find out about the two strongest Qi warriors amongst all the foreign cultivators.

One was Miao Chen, who had already arrived here. He was the one from the Realm of Black Marsh, and his spiritual power was tainted with deadly toxicity and through mere contact, would rot away a man’s flesh.

The other one was Tang Yang, who everyone was looking at. He was from the Realm of Dark Underworld, and had a late Greater Heaven stage cultivation base. He was proficient in the arts of the flame.

When the three foreign cultivators, including Miao Chen, saw that Tang Yang had come, they were also secretly surprised. “Tang Yang!”

Miao Chen had a grim expression on his face, clearly quite fearful of Tang Yang. “This guy found this place too quickly. Dammit!”

Only Miao Chen knew how many plots he had secretly concocted in order to prevent Tang Yang from finding this place.

After stepping through the Heaven Gate, he confirmed through some mysterious means that the floating city would appear on this enormous meteorite.

In order to prevent Tang Yang from finding this place, he secretly carried out a crafty scheme to make sure that the area that Tang Yang was responsible for was the furthest away from this meteorite.

He did so to make sure that Tang Yang wouldn't be able to perceive the energy fluctuations when the floating city appeared.

Even if Tang Yang realized that the area that he was allotted was extremely remote when the floating city appeared, Miao Chen was

confident that he would probably have seized the most of the fortune by the time Tang Yang came for him.

As a matter of fact, if it weren't for Nie Tian, Tang Yang would indeed still be at his allotted region, hunting down disciples from the seven sects one after the other and accumulating Heaven Sparks.

As far as Tang Yang was concerned, the more Heaven Sparks one obtained, the stronger one's connection would be to that dilapidated city. Therefore, his plan was to determine the accurate location of the floating city through obtaining the most Heaven Sparks.

However, Zhao Mo had found him and told him about the appearance of the Flame Dragon Armor and the fact that the Flame Dragon Armor had integrated with the Blood Core.

The Flame Dragon Armor was from Tang Yang's sect. Now that it not only had become complete again, but it had even fallen into the hands of a Lesser Heaven stage junior from the Realm of Flame Heaven, he naturally wanted to snatch it without any delay.

That was why Tang Yang immediately put an end to his plan of hunting and killing the disciples from the seven sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Under Zhao Mo's lead, they had raced in Nie Tian's direction. Moreover, when that floating city had first appeared and released energy fluctuations, Tang Yang instantly perceived them.

Therefore, Nie Tian actually contributed greatly to the fact that Tang Yang had rushed over in time.

Tang Yang roared before diving forcefully towards the city gate where Feng Luo and Li Fan were at, like a fierce, burning beast. “Get the hell out of my way, all of you! I’m not interested in you. As long as you stay where you are and don’t try to stop me, I’ll consider sparing your lives!”

“It’s Tang Yang!!” Zou Yi and Feng Luo’s expressions flickered. They subconsciously dodged to the side, clearing out a path that led straight into the city.

Even though Feng Luo had already developed an admiration towards Nie Tian, he knew how powerful Tang Yang was and was not willing to put his life on the line for Nie Tian. By that time, he had also spotted the ten bright spots on the back of Tang Yang’s hand, which indicated that ten powerful experts from the seven sects had already died by his hands.

Li Fan and Liu Yan were both in the early Greater Heaven stage. After sensing Tang Yang’s unstoppable momentum and that Tang Yang’s eyes were ablaze with frenzied flames as he stared unwaveringly at Nie Tian, they couldn’t help but feel secretly frightened.

They were now certain that Tang Yang’s target was Nie Tian!

They weren’t clear as to how Nie Tian had offended Tang Yang,

yet they knew that once Tang Yang got close to Nie Tian, Nie Tian would most likely be killed in a flash.

They exchanged a glance and saw the bitter and helpless look in each other's eyes.

If Zou Yi and Feng Luo were willing to join hands with them to stop Tang Yang, perhaps they could stall Tang Yang for a while.

However, by stepping away and clearing a path for Tang Yang, Zou Yi and Feng Luo had already made their stance clear.

They did not dare to hamper Tang Yang!

Without Zou Yi and Feng Luo, there was no possibility whatsoever that they could block Tang Yang with just the two of them.

Just as they were hesitating, Zhao Mo from the Realm of Dark Underworld also dashed towards them after Tang Yang.

Zhao Mo was in the middle Greater Heaven stage, and thus could also overtake any of them. Apparently, he bore the intention of assisting Tang Yang by dashing after him.

Tang Yang by himself was already terrifying. Now that Zhao Mo was also in the picture, how were they going to contend against them?

When Zou Yi and Feng Luo realized that Zhao Mo had also rushed towards this city gate, they grew increasingly uneasy. Without any delay, they quickly stepped back to make an even larger space for them, fearing that Tang Yang and Zhao Mo would kill them for being in their way. However, Li Fan and Liu Yan didn't move a bit.

“Screw off!” An enormous, flaming light beam suddenly shot out from Tang Yang's chest. Inside of the light beam, there were many specks of flaming light flickering about, interweaving into a marvelous flame pattern.

A mysterious flame incantation that carried the intent to burn everything to ashes seemed to be branded within that mysterious blazing pattern!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

One after the other, Liu Yan and Li Fan summoned their spiritual tools in an attempt to block the flaming light beam. However, in the moment that the flaming light beam made contact with their spiritual weapons, they were blasted so heavily to the point where they coughed up blood.

Their Medium grade spiritual tools were sent flying to the side while still sputtering with fragmented flames.

BANG!

With another attack, the flaming light beam viciously struck Liu Yan in the chest. Liu Yan was sent flying backwards and heavily fell to the ground behind Nie Tian.

Nie Tian had long since quietly turned around to observe their movements since Tang Yang and Zhao Mo appeared. He witnessed Liu Yan sail through the air in a perfect arc and fall to the ground with a loud crash.

“Uncle Liu!!!” Nie Tian’s wide eyes grew so bloodshot that they seemed as if were about to bleed.

By the time Liu Yan fell to the ground, the vigor in his eyes had already dispersed and he was completely devoid of life force.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The fearful, flaming light beam madly sped along for another several meters inside the city gate tunnel that shone with multi-colored light before it finally dissipated, as if it had also been affected by the pushing force inside the tunnel.

Li Fan’s eyes also immediately reddened. Watching Liu Yan be killed right before his eyes, he immediately planned to fight Tang Yang to the death.

At that moment, Feng Luo, who was the closest to him, grabbed him and held him back with all his strength, despite Li Fan’s

struggling, so as to stop him from going on a suicide mission.

Feng Luo was certain that Nie Tian was Tang Yang's one and only target!

As long as the other people didn't try to stop him from getting close to Nie Tian, he wouldn't bother to kill them.

Liu Yan was only annihilated by Tang Yang because he recklessly stood between him and Nie Tian.

Tang Yang did not even spare Li Fan a glance as he stepped forward. It was obvious that he did not attach any importance to someone who only had an early Greater Heaven cultivation base.

Seeing that Liu Yan had been killed by Tang Yang with one strike, Zou Yi stood still, flabbergasted. "He's so strong!"

His expression flickered as he stealthily took another step back, making even more room for the god-like Tang Yang.

Tang Yang's whole body was ablaze with flames as he strode forwards. Coupled with his tall and sturdy frame, he was like a burning, moving mountain. His eyes were fixed on Nie Tian as he shouted, "Boy! Hand over the Flame Dragon Armor and I will honor you a complete-corpse death! If you dare to disobey me, I will burn you to ashes, not leaving a single bone!"

By the time the words left his mouth, he had already walked past

Feng Luo, Li Fan, and Zou Yi. Step by step, he approached Nie Tian.

The clusters of blazing flames that had been hovering around him seemed to fight with the multi-colored light within the gate tunnel, creating crackling and rattling sounds.

Tang Yang, who had long hair trailing over his shoulders, gradually built up his imposing manner. Now he was like a flaming, demonic god, unceasingly unleashing deadly, tyrannical flames.

Chapter 166: Another Breakthrough!

The city gate tunnel was several dozen meters deep.

Tang Yang caught up from behind while unleashing monstrous flame power. In merely a split second, he sped past Li Fan and Feng Luo and continued to proceed forward.

He didn't even take one glance at Liu Yan's corpse as he flashed past.

He rapidly gained on Nie Tian, and it wasn't long before he was only fifteen meters away.

CRACKLE!

While the seven-colored light within the gate tunnel constantly bashed the burning flames that wreathed Tang Yang, they repeatedly neutralized each other.

"Yee!?" Tang Yang suddenly came to a stop, as if he was also astonished by the strong resistant force that had been crushing him and pushing him back.

Separated by a distance of fifteen meters, he coldly looked at Nie Tian as he secretly examined the resistant force that seemed to stem from the seven-colored light. He seemed to be pondering something.

“Nie Tian! Get away from him! Go as far as you can!” Seeing from behind that Tang Yang was getting closer and closer to Nie Tian, Li Fan hurriedly reminded him with a loud voice, hoping that Nie Tian would continue to move forward and keep a distance between him and Tang Yang.

While calling out, Li Fan’s face was full of grief and indignation. As he looked at Liu Yan’s corpse, his heart was brimming with hatred.

However, he also understood perfectly that with his cultivation base, it was impossible for him to avenge Liu Yan by killing Tang Yang in the city gate tunnel.

He only wished that Nie Tian wouldn’t follow in Liu Yan’s footsteps.

“Hand over the Flame Dragon Armor and I will honor you with a complete-corpse death!” Tang Yang never even looked at Li Fan. Instead, he stared at Nie Tian and threatened him again.

Red-hot, bright lights rapidly condensed one after another in front of Tang Yang as he spoke.

The bright, fiery lights continuously changed their form, before they once again converged and morphed into a thick and long flaming light beam, inside of which were hidden the profound truths of the flame power.

As soon as the fiery light beam was formed, the seven-colored light in the gate tunnel suddenly flooded toward Tang Yang.

ZZZZZLA!

Countless dazzling sparks were sent out into the surroundings when the two types of light met, making the energy in the area between Tang Yang and Nie Tian extremely turbulent.

“Uncle Liu...” Turning back to look at Liu Yan’s cold body, Nie Tian’s eyes were filled with rage.

However, he knew that with his current cultivation base, it was absolutely impossible for him to kill Tang Yang.

After all, Tang Yang was much more powerful than Jia Peng and Du Huang.

Tang Yang shook his head and called out, “Hey!”

It seemed that he couldn’t wait any longer and decided to not give Nie Tian another chance.

BOOM!

Under his command, the thick, flaming light beam, carrying a terrifying flame energy, abruptly charged towards Nie Tian.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The seven-colored light, which was originally scattered everywhere within the city gate, gathered together from all directions and condensed into multiple seven-colored light shields, rippling forward to resist the light beam.

The clashing momentum of the light beam made it advance forward with extreme difficulty due to the resistance of the seven-colored light shields.

One inch at a time, the thick, flaming light beam broke through the multiple layers of light. However, it was gradually neutralized by the power of the seven-colored light shields and became smaller and smaller. The flame energy that it carried was also rapidly dissipating.

The seven-colored light rays that were everywhere in the city gate tunnel seemed to prohibit fights of any kind.

Upon detecting any sort of violent power, the seven-colored light rays would immediately interfere and obliterate the attack, regardless of whoever launched it.

However, the might of the late Greater Heaven stage Tang Yang's attack was by no means insignificant.

Even though there were layers of obstructions from the seven-colored light rays, which had caused the flame light pillar to slow

down, it was still, bit by bit, rumbling towards Nie Tian.

When the flame light pillar was only two meters away from Nie Tian's chest, Nie Tian was already dripping with sweat.

“Get out of here! Now!!” Feng Luo couldn't help but call out to Nie Tian.

Nie Tian, who had stood in place for a while, snapped back to his senses. He temporarily cast aside his emotions and stepped out again towards the inside of the city.

As he took his first step, he immediately felt the strength of the pushing force increase dramatically. He couldn't tell if the power that originated from the seven-colored light rays was preventing everyone from entering or testing them.

He had no choice but to madly draw power from his spiritual sea and stimulate his vortex of spiritual power, vortex of flame power, and vortex of wood power to the peak.

The high speed revolution of the three vortexes not only provided him with rich energy, but it seemed to also be very efficiently purifying his spiritual sea.

Within his spiritual sea, the refining process of the different kinds of power seemed to have sped up by several fold with the frantic revolution of the three vortexes.

BOOM!

When he took the tenth step, he suddenly experienced a violent shudder in his mind. It felt like he had broken out of a tight cage.

“Middle Lesser Heaven stage!” Even though he didn’t have an idea as to what exactly had happened within himself, he was certain that he had just broke through from the early Lesser Heaven stage into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

He never expected that he would make a breakthrough in his cultivation base while he was in the middle of painstakingly stepping forward within the gate tunnel.

Not having the time to ponder the profundity of the middle Lesser Heaven stage, he once again concentrated on moving forward as fast as possible.

At that moment, even though the fiery light beam had already shrunk to one tenth of its original size, it was still closing in on him.

It was now only one meter away from the middle of Nie Tian’s back.

The flame energy that the flaming light beam unleashed caused the area that he was in to become incomparably hot.

Numerous seven-colored light rays were still gathering and

rushing towards towards Nie Tian, as they still wanted to obstruct the flaming light beam.

Nie Tian abruptly turned around. He glared at the flaming light beam that had become as thin as an arm and ferociously swung his fist at it.

Splendid and dazzling light blossomed from within his fist.

BAM!

At the moment his fist struck the flaming light beam, sparks sputtered all over the place and numerous threads of fiery light shot out in all directions.

“You must have a death wish!” A sinister grin appeared on Tang Yang’s face as he seemed to suddenly infuse a new surge of power into the fiery light beam, causing it to rapidly expand in size.

A violent flame energy suddenly burst forth from the light beam.

Nie Tian’s face turned pale upon the scene.

Without pausing to think, he immediately summoned a life-saving spiritual talisman that Wu Ji had bestowed upon him from within his bracelet of holding.

As soon as the talisman landed in his palm, he sent out a wisp of

thought to trigger it. Within a split second, it turned into light shields of spiritual power, enveloping Nie Tian.

There were as many as seven layers of light shields that constantly released a jade-like glow. There was a thin separation between the layers.

Numerous threads of spiritual power appeared within the seven light shields. They interwove with each other and evolved into numerous detailed, spiritual patterns.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The fiery sparks that had sputtered out from the fiery light beam disappeared into thin air as soon as they fell onto the outermost light shield.

Then, the expanded light beam rammed into the light shield with great force.

All of a sudden, the seven layers of light shields shone with endless precious light. The numerous complicated spiritual patterns within started to flow back and forth as if they had their own life and soul.

The violent thrusting force, along with the resistant force of the light shields, burst out from the point of contact.

Upon the strong impact from the gigantic light beam, Nie Tian,

who originally trudged forward with great difficulty, was instantly sent forward by more than ten steps.

A gentle, formidable force was emanating from within the seven layers of spiritual power shields, secretly protecting him from any injuries.

At that moment, the four outermost light shields flew out from the sphere, wrapped around the flaming light beam, and immediately started to battle at close quarters with the flame power within the light beam.

The mysterious strength that had come from Wu Ji, bit by bit, ripped apart and crushed the flame essence that had been imprinted by Tang Yang.

Under the frenzied biting and tearing of the numerous mysterious spiritual patterns on the light shields, the flaming light beam once again rapidly shrunk until it disappeared completely.

WHOOSH!

The four layers of spiritual power shields morphed into a bright light ball, and flew back to Nie Tian.

As soon as it made contact with the remaining three layers of light shields, it began to fluctuate and soon spread out to form two layers of light shields.

Therefore, there were still five layers of light shields wreathing Nie Tian.

Not only was Nie Tian unscathed, he even took advantage of the impact force that came from Tang Yang's attack and got closer to the inside of the city.

Seeing that his flaming light beam had completely disappeared, Tang Yang gave a muffled snort as his expression slightly changed. "A life-saving spiritual talisman from a Profound realm expert!"

For some unknown reason, the surging flames that were surrounding him seemed to have grown smaller by a large extent.

His arrogant attacks seemed to have triggered the counter-attack of the seven-colored light rays that filled every corner of the gate tunnel, as they diverted their attention from the others, and madly surged towards him.

The pushing and squeezing force that he suffered was suddenly multiplied by several times.

Nie Tian, who was at the forefront, originally found it hard to take even one step. However, at this moment, he felt that the resistance had suddenly grown weaker.

With the five light shields protecting him, he continued to summon strength to speed up his footsteps. Without any delay, he rapidly charged towards the inner city.

He gradually put space between himself and the city gate, which was several dozen meters high. Before long, he and Miao Chen, who had entered through another gate, became the first ones to step into the city.

Chapter 167: Chosen Ones from the Other Realms

The moment Nie Tian entered the city, he stood there aghast, eyes filled with disbelief.

In front of his eyes was a vacant, vast city. Contrary to what he had pictured in mind, there weren't any nicely decorated buildings or pavilions made of jade. There was only seven-colored light that drifted about in the air like colorful ribbons.

Just as he secretly felt disappointed, the light seemed to have sensed his existence and converged on him from every direction.

In a flash, thousands of light rays arrived at his side and turned into a seven-colored light shield, enveloping him like a giant bubble.

As soon as the colorful light shield was formed, it flew up, taking him into the air.

Nie Tian was dumbstruck.

He had no idea what was happening. He attempted to resist, using the power of the spiritual shields, and stop himself from moving.

Only then did he suddenly notice that the remaining spiritual

power shields were already gone.

Enveloped by the light bubble, he flew up towards the starry sky above his head at an unimaginable speed.

While traveling, he looked at his surroundings with rapt attention, and found that Miao Chen was enveloped in another bubble and had also shot up into the sky.

The two of them were several hundred meters away and could clearly see each other. Nie Tian saw unveiled complacency within Miao Chen's eyes.

It was when he found that Miao Chen was more elated than afraid that he slightly relaxed and tried not to overthink it. He stopped resisting and let the giant bubble take him into the boundless, starry sky.

When he looked down, the numerous gigantic meteors had all shrunk to the size of pieces of grain.

The city that brimmed with seven-colored light had already become hard to find, and soon disappeared from his sight.

However, at the same time, more and more people enveloped in seven-colored bubbles entered his sight one after another.

He saw a tall, burly man surrounded by raging flames shooting into the sky in a seven-colored bubble. Upon a closer look, it was

none other than Tang Yang from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

Apparently, Tang Yang had also stepped into the city after him.

He grew a bit nervous since he had absolutely no idea what would happen. He kept glancing around, but all he saw was endless darkness.

He unleashed his psychic awareness into his surroundings, but detected no sign of life. There was only coldness.

Time passed by rapidly as the bubble carried Nie Tian upwards.

All of a sudden, he felt the bubble slow down a bit.

Subconsciously, he looked up.

A majestic, enormous palace appeared in the depths of the starry sky above him, like an unwavering mountain.

Beneath the base of the palace, countless light rays of various colors interwove with each other, sending out terrifying energy surges.

SHEW!

The bubble carried him up as it flew into a dazzling, transparent

tunnel under the palace, and then shuttled him into the palace.

Seconds later, the seven-colored bubble appeared in an immeasurably wide palace hall.

Wisps of extremely rich spiritual energy entered the floating bubble and blew into Nie Tian's face.

With merely a sniff of it, he felt enlivened and cleansed of all exhaustion, as if his spiritual sea was also rejuvenated by the puff of spiritual energy.

Amazed, he couldn't help but start glancing around at the inside of the splendid palace hall while scanning the area with his psychic awareness.

The ceiling of the hall was extremely vast and adorned with shining dots, which upon a closer look were small stars, making it seem like a river of stars. Even though those tiny stars seemed very far away, he could tell that they were releasing energy fluctuations.

From time to time, gentle starlight would flow out of the star river and pour into the palace hall.

Two rivers of seven-colored light flowed in the palace hall, dividing the enormous hall into three areas.

Miao Chen was in one of them that was separated from the one

that Nie Tian was in by a large area.

Numerous complicated, beautiful patterns were imprinted on the palace walls that were far away from where Nie Tian was. Within them seemed to lay the profound truths of many kinds of power.

Nie Tian grew fascinated with only a single glimpse of them. However, after staring at them with rapt attention for a while, he found himself losing his psychic power at a fast speed.

Apparently, it consumed a tremendous amount of psychic power to study the mysterious patterns on the walls.

Without any hesitation, he retracted his focus from them, and continued to observe the vast area that he was in.

WHOOSH!

Another seven-colored bubble appeared in the area that Nie Tian was in, within which was a white-robed young man.

Face grave and stern, he sat inside of the bubble with a simple, unsophisticated sword on his lap. He gently stroked the sword with hands that were even more slender and beautiful than those of a girl, as he scanned the area with a thoughtful gaze.

“This guy...” At first glance, Nie Tian was sure that he had never seen the man, and that the man had never showed up in the floating city.

After a brief examination, he could tell that the white-robed young man was also in the Lesser Heaven stage, just like him.

“He’s also in the Lesser Heaven stage.” Nie Tian grew intrigued and couldn’t help but start to look him up and down more closely. His expression suddenly flickered.

To his surprise, he saw as many as sixteen Heaven Sparks on the back of the young man’s left hand.

This meant that he might have already taken the lives of sixteen trial takers.

Nie Tian consider himself lucky because by only killing Du Huang and Kan Xingming, he managed to obtain fifteen Heaven Sparks, although the process had been hard and dangerous.

Furthermore, he had taken advantage of others’ help in both kills.

The fact that they were both in the Lesser Heaven stage but the white-robed young man had even more Heaven Sparks than him made Nie Tian secretly astounded.

While Nie Tian looked the white-robed young man up and down, the young man also glanced around and eventually laid his gaze on Nie Tian and the fifteen Heaven Sparks on his hand.

Like Nie Tian, he was also surprised. Then he greeted Nie Tian by briefly nodding towards him.

Nie Tian nodded back.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

At the same time, another two seven-colored bubbles appeared not far from Nie Tian.

They held one young man and one young woman, and both had a Lesser Heaven stage cultivation base.

The young man had an angular face and was wearing a black robe. His loose, shoulder-length hair gave him a somewhat wild look.

He had a long saber with no sheath on his back. On the blade were detailed and sophisticated patterns, among which was a closed eye.

It seemed like a mysterious symbol and Nie Tian had the feeling that it could snap open at any time.

It seemed as if, whenever it opened, it would unleash a power so mighty that it would even outshine the stars in the sky.

Noticing that Nie Tian was staring at him, the black-robed young

man gave a casual, handsome grin; not even the slightest hint of fierceness could be seen in his eyes.

At that moment, Nie Tian noticed the Heaven Sparks that were glittering with scarlet light on the back of his hand. “Eighteen Heaven Sparks!”

The white-robed young man had sixteen and the black-robed young man had eighteen, while the two of them only had a Lesser Heaven stage cultivation base.

Nie Tian was taken aback by the amount of Heaven Sparks that they had obtained.

After a brief moment, he shifted his gaze to the only female among them.

The young woman was in a blue robe. Her eyes were so bright and her face was so delicate that she even seemed unreal. Compared to Jiang Lingzhu and An Shiyi, she was even more unearthly beautiful, and her charm was also something that Nie Tian had never seen.

She had no accessories on her, save a green ring on her finger.

She sat cross-legged within the seven-colored bubble. Eyes closed and silent, she didn't move a hair, as if she had already merged with the heaven and earth, and was rapidly taking in spiritual energy from her surroundings.

Her hands were flattened out on her knees, with her palms facing up, so Nie Tian couldn't see how many Heaven Sparks she had.

However, Nie Tian had the feeling that this charming young woman must also be a deadly character, by no means weaker than the other two young men.

She must have felt Nie Tian's gaze, but she did nothing in response, not even sparing him a glance.

She only took a quick glance at the other two young men before focusing all her attention on the two seven-colored light rivers and people in the other two areas.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Nie Tian followed her gaze and realized that figures were starting to appear in the other two areas.

Among the figures that rapidly appeared in the area closer to his, most were in the Heaven stage and had about ten Heaven Sparks or less on their hands.

In the area further away from his, Nie Tian saw Miao Chen from the Realm of Black Marsh and Tang Yang from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

Separated by two seven-colored light rivers, Tang Yang stared coldly at him, as if he wanted to cross the rivers to get Nie Tian, but was held back by certain worries and had decided not to act rashly.

Miao Chen stood right next to Tang Yang, chuckling softly because of the situation.

Anger appeared on Tang Yang's face. However, he didn't seem interested in talking to Miao Chen, so he didn't do anything in response to Miao Chen's sneer.

Separated by the light rivers, Nie Tian could only see them, but couldn't hear anything.

At that moment, the black-robed young man smiled at Nie Tian and said, "Little bro, you don't look familiar to me. Which realm of the Domain of the Falling Stars are you from?"

As soon as he talked, the white-robed young man with a cold aura around him also cast his gaze towards Nie Tian.

Only the young woman didn't move a muscle, as she appeared to be completely indifferent regarding Nie Tian's origin and status.

"The Realm of Flame Heaven," Nie Tian answered without giving it too much thought.

"The Realm of Flame Heaven..." the young man in black

chuckled and said, “The weakest realm of the nine. You’re lucky that one of the Heaven Gates opened in your realm. I bet the seniors in your sect must have gone to great lengths to get you in here.”

Nie Tian went blank for a moment before he said, “Yeah, you’re right. I’m lucky.”

“Is that so?” The young man in black had a incredulous expression on his face. Eyes narrowed, he looked Nie Tian up and down carefully and asked, “Middle Lesser Heaven stage?”

Nie Tian nodded.

The young man in black shook his head as the expression on his face grew unfathomable.

He said no more, but his gaze was filled with ferocity, as if he had already made Nie Tian his target.

After hearing Nie Tian admitting that he had a middle Lesser Heaven stage cultivation base, the white-robed young man didn’t say a word, but rather stared at him like he was staring at a dead man.

As always, the young woman in blue turned a deaf ear to all that had happened.

Chapter 168: Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

One after another, more powerful experts from the other realms appeared in seven-colored bubbles, in the vast palace hall.

Most of them had Heaven and Greater Heaven stage cultivation bases, and thus appeared in the other two areas.

After some brief observation, Nie Tian found that there were six people in the area for Heaven stage cultivators, and eight people, including Miao Chen and Tang Yang, in the area for Greater Heaven stage cultivators.

Each and every one of them had about ten Heaven Sparks on the backs of their hands.

Apparently, they had all gone through bloody battles to get where they were. Their success was made from numerous corpses.

The truth was that Nie Tian was the only Qi warrior from the Realm of Flame Heaven that had made it to the ancient palace.

The others must have failed to get through the gate of the dilapidated city.

Nie Tian frowned deeply. “I’m the only one from the Realm of Flame Heaven...”

A while had passed and no one new appeared in the three areas of the palace hall.

Separated from Nie Tian by the Heaven stage area, Tang Yang still shot glances at him from time to time, like a tiger that was constantly checking its prey.

However, it seemed that he was aware that it would be impossible for him to cross those seven-colored light rivers.

Therefore, he didn’t even bother to try. However, he wasn’t any less torn with regret that he didn’t go all-out and kill Nie Tian before entering.

In the area for Lesser Heaven stage cultivators, Nie Tian and the other three were in the four corners of the squared floor.

Nie Tian’s gaze shifted between the other three, and he noticed that they were all quietly adjusting their breathing and auras, as if they were preparing for something.

It seemed they all knew what would happen in the ancient palace.

And Nie Tian was the only one who knew nothing of it.

However, none of them showed any interest in explaining it to Nie Tian as they each sat in their own corner, silently taking in the extremely rich spiritual energy in the air.

Upon seeing this, Nie Tian immediately started channeling the spiritual energy with the Qi Refining Incantation.

As soon as he started, the rich and pure spiritual energy in his vicinity started to madly converge on him.

The energy was so pure that it didn't even need to be refined. The moment it flowed into his spiritual sea, it merged with the spiritual power that had already been there.

The vortex of spiritual power in his spiritual sea started to revolve at an astonishing speed as it rapidly expanded, as if it had become a tornado.

Meanwhile, the vortex of flame power and vortex of wood power quietly revolved.

Since the spiritual energy that Nie Tian had taken in was very pure and untainted with power of any attribute, those two vortexes didn't undergo much change.

“The spiritual energy is so pure and refined here!”

After a brief moment of cultivation, Nie Tian felt enlivened and relaxed. He even discovered signs that his spiritual sea was experiencing another expansion and upgrade.

Ever since he had stepped into the Lesser Heaven stage, the size of his spiritual sea hadn't changed at all.

When he was in the early Lesser Heaven stage, all he had done was refine the spiritual energy in his spiritual sea over and over again, in order to make the faint spiritual energy within it pure and condensed.

He had always thought that was all there was to the cultivation in the Lesser Heaven stage.

However, as soon as the pure spiritual energy in the palace entered his vortex of spiritual power, he knew he was wrong.

His spiritual sea, which had undergone countless rounds of refinement, once again started to develop and expand.

Furthermore, it expanded unprecedentedly fast this time!

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Under his channeling, the spiritual energy in the air near Nie Tian madly converged onto the seven-colored light shield that he was in.

Like a sponge, he rapidly absorbed the spiritual energy and directed it into his spiritual sea in order for it to continue expanding.

“Yee!?” The black-robed young man seemed to have detected an anomaly and snapped his eyes open.

He stared closely at Nie Tian and observed his slightly strange way of absorbing spiritual energy, before he smiled and said, “Only a cultivator who just broke through and opened up a new piece of dry land in their spiritual sea would be able to absorb the spiritual energy in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace so rapidly. This means that this guy only entered the middle Lesser Heaven stage recently. Interesting!”

He managed to see through Nie Tian’s situation by no more than observing the strange energy flow that had been created by him while cultivating.

He was right. Nie Tian had only reached the point where he naturally entered the middle Lesser Heaven stage when he was in the gate of the floating city.

Whenever a breakthrough was made, the spiritual sea was always very eager to fill the void with new-found energy. Therefore, when he started to use the Qi Refining Incantation to cultivate, the speed that he channeled spiritual energy to his spiritual sea was faster than the other three.

And there was another reason to it: the three of them already had their spiritual seas brimming with spiritual energy.

They would have to spend more time and strength to upgrade their spiritual seas in order for them to contain more spiritual energy.

On the other hand, there was an area in Nie Tian's spiritual sea that was completely empty and ready for new spiritual energy.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

White, misty spiritual energy flooded into Nie Tian's spiritual sea, swelling it like a shriveled balloon.

After an unknown period of time, his spiritual sea expanded by fifty percent from its original size.

Suddenly, the spiritual energy that he had recently allowed into his spiritual sea started to fly about in a violent and disorderly fashion. It slowly condensed and evolved, before eventually taking the form of another vortex of spiritual power.

By that time, other than the vortex of flame power and vortex of wood power, there were two vortexes of spiritual power within Nie Tian's spiritual sea.

As soon as it was fully formed, the speed at which he absorbed the spiritual energy doubled.

Even more spiritual energy rushed madly into and further enlarged his spiritual sea.

Nie Tian's spirits were greatly lifted. His heart brimmed with joy as he realized that he had progressed at a tremendous pace while cultivating in the mysterious, ancient palace.

Even the spiritual energy in the mystical land where the Flame Dragon Armor had taken him wasn't as pure and rich as the energy in here.

Nie Tian was aware that if he didn't make good use of the opportunity and temper himself, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

By that time, he had already cast the trial and the Heaven Sparks on his hand out of his mind. He solely focused on cultivation and taking in as much as spiritual energy as possible, hoping that he could finish upgrading his spiritual sea before something else happened.

Time passed by quickly without him realizing it. It could have been a day since he started cultivating for all he knew.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

The countless, bright stars in the ceiling of the palace all suddenly shot out dazzling starlight at the same time.

The starlight seemed to have traveled across endless space to pour down from the river of stars.

After the starlight shone on them, all the detailed patterns on the palace walls also became bright and dazzling, enabling everyone to have clear views of them.

It was at that moment that Nie Tian snapped out of his cultivation. He looked up at the starlight that had lit up every corner of the palace hall, not knowing what it meant.

However, it was only a moment before he realized that the fifteen Heaven Sparks on the back of his hand had become incomparably hot.

By this point, his spiritual sea had already doubled in size. The amount of spiritual power that he could store in his spiritual sea seemed to have reached its limit in such a short time.

He had the feeling that if he had cultivated in other places instead of here, even if he had an endless supply of spirit stones, he would have needed a year and a half to make the same achievement.

SHEW!

A beam of extremely bright starlight shone on a spot on the palace wall, and the complicated pattern in that area instantly

became clear and vivid.

Nie Tian looked over and soon sensed the speedy loss of his psychic power. However, he had the strange feeling that a mysterious connection was created between him and the pattern.

Subconsciously, his psychic power morphed into an invisible hand and pressed on the detailed pattern.

At that moment, a strong attraction force was born from within the fifteen Heaven Sparks on his hand.

In the next moment, he saw the pattern gradually separate itself from the wall and fly towards him.

He wasn't the only one. The other three young cultivators also narrowed their eyes, searching for their own targets.

Three pieces of delicate patterns grew bright and dazzling after being illuminated by three beams of starlight. One after another they separated themselves from the solid wall and flew towards the three youngsters.

In the other two areas, Heaven and Greater Heaven stage experts were also using the same method to pull the delicate patterns towards them.

Under the channeling of Nie Tian's psychic power, the pattern seemed to be drawn by a mysterious force, and eventually flew into

the Heaven Sparks on Nie Tian's hand.

As soon as it entered, Nie Tian's psychic power entered those Heaven Sparks with it. A chain of ancient, mysterious writing flew into his mind.

“Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace Legacy, first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.”

Chapter 169: Su Lin from the Heaven Palace Sect

Nie Tian's mind shook violently.

The mysterious words in the Heaven Sparks were mostly randomly scattered and out of order. It seemed like it would need to be rearranged and lined up in order to learn their true meaning.

However, among the mess of disordered words, a handful of words were perfectly lined up.

They were written with the ancient symbols of the ancient Qi warriors.

Those words read, "Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace Legacy, first part of Fragmentary Star Incantation."

"Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace!" Nie Tian's expression slightly flickered. He withdrew his mind and glanced around at the vast palace hall. Looking at the small stars that were shining on the ceiling, he suddenly came to realize something.

This place must be the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace that those words were referring to, and all the comers were here for its legacies.

Before now, his psychic power had been unable to enter the

Heaven Sparks. Therefore, even though he had absorbed quite a few magical symbols from the dilapidated city, he hadn't been able to study them.

It was as if the fifteen Heaven Sparks had been covered in a invisible shield, blocking his psychic awareness from peeping into them.

However, as soon as the detailed pattern entered the Heaven Sparks on his hands, the impeding shield seemed to suddenly lifted.

From the look of it, only those who got into the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace would be able to send their psychic power into the Heaven Sparks, so as to learn the profound mysteries that hid within.

Having understood how it worked, Nie Tian took a deep breath and once again concentrated on observing the numerous patterns on the distant walls.

After the starlight had shone on them, each and every one of them had begun glittering with bright light.

Every one of them became so clear and vivid that Nie Tian's eyes could capture even the most subtle veins and lines.

Some were patterns of the sun, moon, and stars; some were patterns of ravines and mountain ranges, while others were of

veins of ancient trees. They all represented the various things in the world.

However, it seemed not all of them could be absorbed and drawn in by his psychic power.

As his gaze shifted from one pattern to another, he noticed that he couldn't build up a mysterious connection with any one of those patterns.

His gaze roamed here and there, continuously sweeping across the wall, before it suddenly fixed on one pattern that was filled with numerous fragmentary stars, which made it seem like a dazzling and bright star atlas.

The moment his gaze landed on it, a mysterious connection was established between Nie Tian and the pattern.

The fifteen Heaven Sparks on his hand once again became extremely hot. At the same time, a strong attractive force was born within them.

In the next moment, the mysterious pattern that seemed to be made of stars was pulled out of the wall and slowly flew towards him, soon merging with his Heaven Sparks.

Nie Tian carefully probed his Heaven Sparks and found that as soon as the pattern of fragmentary stars entered the Heaven Sparks, it seemed to disintegrate.

The complicated and detailed star atlas exploded and turned into numerous ancient symbols, which scattered around inside the fifteen Heaven Sparks.

His psychic awareness drifted around from one Heaven Spark to another, and he discovered that the numerous, unreadable symbols that he had absorbed from the dilapidated city had morphed into ancient scripts.

There were hundreds of ancient scripts within the fifteen Heaven Sparks, each of which shone brightly and looked like fragmentary stars that were drifting around indefinitely and quietly.

Although he could recognize most of those ancient scripts, since they weren't in the correct order, he couldn't decipher the true meaning behind them.

However, he was quite certain that they recorded the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

Another thing was that he had the feeling that the ancient scripts that he obtained was far from enough to complete the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

In order to obtain the legacy, not only would he have to add more scripts to his Heaven Sparks, but he would also need to spend countless hours to rearrange the disorderly scripts and put them in the right order.

Only in that way would he be able to understand the profound mysteries within the Fragmentary Star Incantation and start cultivating with it.

WHOOSH!

He breathed out a mouthful of waste after channeling two more patterns from the wall into his Heaven Sparks. He could tell that he had already consumed a large amount of his psychic power.

He decided to slow down his pace. Instead of continuing to channel the patterns on the palace walls, he turned around to look at the other three cultivators in the Lesser Heaven area.

He was convinced that the three of them were here for the one and only purpose: to obtain the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, legacy of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

He discovered that the three of them were doing exactly what he had done, absorbing patterns from the distant walls and adding magical symbols into their own Heaven Sparks.

He paid more attention to the blue-garbed young woman.

Since she had placed her hands on her knees, palms facing up, Nie Tian never had the chance to see how many Heaven Sparks she had.

At that moment, she was also using her psychic power and the special connection to absorb mysterious patterns from the walls into her Heaven Sparks.

This gave Nie Tian the chance to get a clear view of her hands, and on the back of her milky left hand he saw as many as twenty Heaven Sparks!

Nie Tian counted inwardly. Convinced that there were twenty Heaven Sparks on the young woman's hand, Nie Tian's expression flickered. "Twenty!"

According to his understanding, having more Heaven Sparks meant killing more trial takers and having greater power.

The fact that the teenager in white had sixteen Heaven Sparks and the teenager in black had eighteen had already made him pay special attention to the two of them.

However, only until now did he finally realize that the young woman was actually the most fierce one and the one who he should be the most careful with.

His speculation was soon proved valid.

He discovered that shortly after him, the white-robed young man and black-robed young man both stopped channeling and absorbing patterns from the walls due to overconsumption of their psychic power.

Only the blue-garbed young woman was still searching for patterns that she had connections with on the walls, her eyes glittering with a bright light. Before long, a few more detailed and beautiful patterns flew into the Heaven Sparks on the back of her left hand.

The black-robed young man grinned and said, “Wow, no wonder people say Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect in the Realm of Mystic Heaven is quite a character.”

“Realm of Mystic Heaven, Heaven Palace sect!” Nie Tian’s eyebrows rose.

Right before he headed off to the Hell sect, Wu Ji had imprinted the things that required his attention in the command medallion and had told him to read them on his way. That was where the Realm of Mystic Heaven and the Heaven Palace sect had previously come up.

According to the information that Wu Ji had obtained, the one of the other two Heaven Gates had opened up in the Heaven Palace sect in the Realm of Mystic Heaven.

Meanwhile, the other one had opened up in the Realm of a Thousand Devastations.

There were nine realms in the Domain of the Falling Stars: the Realm of Mystic Heaven, Realm of Endless Ice, Realm of Unbounded Desolation, Realm of a Thousand Devastations, Realm

of a Hundred Battles, Realm of Black Marsh, Realm of Earth Sieve, Realm of Dark Underworld, and Realm of Flame Heaven.

Each of these nine realms had a few Qi warrior sects located in it, whose strength varied from one another.

Of all the realms, the Realm of Mystic Heaven, the Realm of Endless Ice, and the Realm of Unbounded Desolation were known as the three strongest realms.

Close behind them were the Realm of a Thousand Devastations, the Realm of a Hundred Battles, and the Realm of Black Marsh. The Realm of Earth Sieve, the Realm of Dark Underworld, and the Realm of Flame Heaven were ranked last.

The Realm of Mystic Heaven had always been considered among the most powerful of the nine realms. Some people might even say that it was the number one powerful realm.

On the other hand, the Heaven Palace sect was widely accepted as the most powerful Qi warrior sect in the Realm of Mystic Heaven, whose status in the Realm of Mystic Heaven was even more unshakable than the Hell sect in Realm of Flame Heaven.

At least in the Realm of Flame Heaven, the four sects with the Spiritual Treasure sect as their leader had been dissatisfied with the Hell sect's dominant position.

However, all the sects in the Realm of Mystic Heaven

acknowledged the Heaven Palace sect's ruling position, and would even take orders from the Heaven Palace sect at all times!

Since Su Lin was from the Heaven Palace sect, her arrogance and the fact that she was able to obtain twenty Heaven Sparks seemed to make sense now.

Under Nie Tian and the other two's gazes, Su Lin attracted one more pattern into her Heaven Sparks, and only then did her eyes finally stopped searching.

After all, the process was too consuming on psychic power, even so for her. Therefore, she also needed time to recuperate.

She didn't look at anyone, but rather sat in silence and used her unique, secret magic to channel the rich spiritual energy in her surroundings, as if she wanted to use the spiritual energy in the air to restore her psychic power.

Even though Nie Tian was confused and incredulous, seeing that Su Lin was doing it, he thought he might as well try it as well.

The only way that Nie Tian knew to replenish his psychic power was through protracted sleep.

According to his experience, by breathing spiritual Qi of the heaven and earth alone, he wasn't able to restore any of the psychic power that he had lost.

However, when he copied what Su Lin was doing and used the Qi Refining Incantation to circulate the spiritual Qi of heaven and earth, he was surprised to discover that the spiritual energy in this place contained a small amount of unknown energy that actually could replenish his psychic power.

The unknown energy was extremely faint, about one hundredth of the intensity of the spiritual energy.

Even so, Nie Tian was amazed and thrilled at the fact that he had a way to restore his psychic power in this place.

Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian pondered in silence for a while before his expression suddenly flickered. “There is a special kind of energy in the spiritual Qi of heaven and earth. This means that the more spiritual energy I take in, the faster I’ll be able to restore my psychic power...”

He suddenly remembered the secret magic that he had learned from one of the giant arms in the mysterious land.

That arm had its fingers stretched out like a claw, as if it had attempted to rip the heaven out of the sky.

He recalled that by casting that secret magic in that mysterious land, he had managed to channel the relatively rich spiritual energy into himself much more effectively and speed up his cultivation by multiple times.

Since it primarily relied on a high concentration of spiritual energy, he didn't try it on the Cloudsoaring mountain.

However, he was currently in a place where there was a endless supply of unprecedentedly rich spiritual energy!

He gave a bright smile. "There's no better place to use that technique than here!"

Without wasting any time, he calmed himself and started to cast the secret magic to gather spiritual energy.

Chapter 170: Super Quick Recovery!

With his new-found understanding, Nie Tian lifted up one hand and started to channel the spiritual energy in the surroundings.

Within moments, a strong attraction force was born in the center of his hand.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

The incomparably rich spiritual energy in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace began to madly converge on his hand.

It wasn't very long before a ball of semi-liquidized spiritual energy gradually took form in his palm.

The spiritual energy ball expanded to the size of a table, while misty spiritual energy constantly rose up from the liquid surface within it, releasing massive amounts of raging energy fluctuations.

“Hmm?” Both the white-robed young man and the black-robed young man detected the anomaly, opened their eyes, and cast curious gazes towards Nie Tian.

Eyes narrowed, Nie Tian quietly cast a spell to absorb the pure spiritual energy within the ball.

PHEW! PHEW!

One after another, numerous wisps of light flowed out of the spiritual energy ball and rapidly flew into Nie Tian's body.

The two vortexes of spiritual power within his spiritual sea started to revolve at an unprecedentedly high speed.

The infusion of the pure, condensed spiritual energy instantly filled his spiritual sea to the brim.

At the same time, Nie Tian had a very clear feeling that the special energy was quietly flowing into his mind, rapidly replenishing his overused psychic power.

Only after a few moments had passed did his eyes start to glitter with brilliant light, as if he had already restored his psychic power to a great extent.

However, the giant spiritual energy ball in his palm hadn't shrink in the least bit, and the energy within was still incomparably copious.

But the special energy had already been completely sucked away in such a short time.

He couldn't detect any residual bit of it.

Brow furrowed, Nie Tian searched in his brain for awhile before

he made up his mind.

He decided to give up the spiritual energy ball.

SHEW!

With a flick of his fingers, the spiritual energy ball left his palm and flew away like a balloon.

Although Nie Tian had given up controlling it, the spiritual energy ball stopped about five meters to his left and floated there. The semi-liquidized spiritual energy within it was still sending out strong energy ripples.

Perhaps because he was its creator, even though he decided to set it free, there was still a mysterious link between him and the spiritual energy ball.

However, Nie Tian didn't think too much about it.

After all, the purpose of him creating the energy ball was to more effectively absorb the unknown energy in it, so as to recover his psychic power.

After casting away the first energy ball, Nie Tian repeated the spell that he had picked up from the mysterious land, and created another spiritual energy ball.

Before long, it too expanded to the size of a table.

With the same method, Nie Tian rapidly absorbed the energy within.

However, since his spiritual sea had already expanded to the limit of middle Lesser Heaven stage and he couldn't take in any more spiritual energy, he only pulled away the special energy within the ball and channeled it to his mind.

With another surge of replenishment of his psychic power, Nie Tian's eyes shone with an increasingly bright light.

Thrilled by his new findings, he flicked the spiritual energy ball that was devoid of the special energy to the side. "Next!"

With the same method, he condensed another energy ball and absorbed only the special energy from it.

Over and over, he repeated the process to restore his psychic power.

Before long, there were already seven spiritual energy balls floating around Nie Tian, emanating intense energy fluctuations.

By that time, Nie Tian had already restored all the psychic power that he had consumed from attracting the complicated patterns from the walls.

Not only that, he even felt a certain growth in his psychic power!

He smiled to himself and stopped cultivating. Once again, he started examining the patterns on the distant walls.

Soon afterwards, he found a pattern that he felt a connection with, and used his psychic power to pull it towards him before it flew into the fifteen Heaven Sparks on the back of his hand.

As soon as it entered, it once again exploded and turned into dozens of ancient scripts, scattered within the Heaven Sparks.

“He has recovered his strength already?!” The face of the black-robed young man from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation turned grim after he noticed that Nie Tian had already stopped cultivating and begun taking in more magical symbols of the Fragmentary Star Incantation again.

The white-robed young man from the Realm of Endless Ice also cast an astonished gaze towards Nie Tian. Even though he didn’t say a word, he seemed to grow uneasy.

The two of them had both reached the peak of the Lesser Heaven stage. Even still, they couldn’t recover so quickly after such a great consumption of their psychic power.

Meanwhile, Nie Tian’s cultivation base was inferior to theirs, and he was from the weakest realm of the nine, the Realm of Flame

Heaven...

As a matter of fact, the white-robed young man had despised Nie Tian from when they had first met, thinking that it was a joke that a middle Lesser Heaven stage boy from the Realm of Flame Heaven had come here for the legacy.

He had also noticed that the young man from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation had already viewed Nie Tian as his prey.

He originally thought that it wouldn't be long before the guy from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation gave in to the temptation of killing Nie Tian, and Nie Tian wouldn't stand a chance if he did.

However, now...

He shook his head upon realizing that Nie Tian was much more than what he originally had in mind. He was convinced that there must be something unusual about him.

PHOOH!

At that moment, the blue-garbed Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect awoke from her cultivation and fixed her beautiful eyes on Nie Tian for the first time.

With her unique, secret magic, she managed to fully restore her psychic power within a short time.

Even still, she found herself one step behind Nie Tian.

She unleashed her psychic power and sensed that it would still take the other two about an hour to fully replenish their psychic power.

“Perhaps it was because his cultivation base was low and his psychic power was puny that he was able to recover so quickly.” Su Lin muttered to herself. Without dwelling on it, she continued to attract the detailed patterns that contained the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation with her psychic power.

A long time passed.

Out of the corner of her eyes, Su Lin noticed that Nie Tian had taken in three patterns in a row before coming to a stop, seemingly depleted of psychic power.

“Three!” She finally started to attach importance to Nie Tian. Her mind drifted away while she was in the middle of absorbing a pattern.

She knew perfectly well how much psychic power was required to attract three patterns that were imprinted with the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

She herself could only attract five patterns even when her psychic power was at the fullest.

However, in order not to completely drain her psychic power, she would usually stop at four. After all, she preferred to be on the safe side.

The other two young men, on the other hand, didn't dare to pull more than three patterns into their Heaven Sparks in a row, despite the fact that they had both reached the peak of the Lesser Heaven stage.

The fact that Nie Tian could also attract three patterns into his Heaven Sparks meant that his psychic power was at least at the same level as the other two young men.

Su Lin was also well aware of what status they had in the Realm of Unbounded Desolation and the Realm of Endless Ice.

She couldn't help but wonder how a middle Lesser Heaven stage young man from the Realm of Flame Heaven had acquired psychic power so impressive, and how he managed to recover his psychic power so rapidly.

Eyes glittering with a curious light, she studied Nie Tian from head to toe and whispered to herself, "I have to pay more attention to him."

After detaching and pulling three more detailed patterns into his Heaven Sparks, Nie Tian once again stopped.

He used the same method to condense another spiritual energy ball, and then drained it only of its special energy that could help him restore psychic power.

Immediately after, he released the energy ball into his surroundings and went ahead to create a new one.

Time passed quickly.

Nie Tian repeated the process of using his psychic power to attract the patterns that carried the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation into his Heaven Sparks and replenishing it with the energy balls.

Before long, there were already about thirty balls of pure spiritual energy floating around him.

Since he recovered his psychic power far faster than the other two young men and slightly faster than Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect, the ancient symbols that he had obtained outnumbered all of them.

In the end, the four of them together took all of the detailed, delicate patterns that stood out into their Heaven Sparks.

Nie Tian's gaze went wall to wall, searching for more patterns that he could interact with, but his search turned out fruitless.

That was when he realized that all the ancient symbols that

carried the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation were in the Heaven Sparks on their hands by now.

The other three soon came to the same realization.

At that moment, the black-robed young man from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation suddenly reached out his hand and pulled a long, strangely-shaped saber from his back. Smiling at Nie Tian, he said, “It’s time to do some reaping.”

Chapter 171: Wu Ling from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation

As soon as the black-robed young man spoke, Nie Tian looked over at him.

“Are you talking about me?” Nie Tian grinned and asked.

The four of them were the only ones in the Lesser Heaven stage area, and all the ancient symbols of the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation were now stored in their Heaven Sparks.

If they wanted to collect all the magical symbols and complete the first part of the incantation, the only way would be to snatch magical symbols from the other three.

Actually, when Nie Tian realized that the four of them had all been collecting magical symbols of the same incantation, he had expected there to be a fierce fight between them eventually.

In the others’ eyes, he had the lowest cultivation base, and thus was the weakest.

However, due to his superior psychic power recovering ability, he had obtained the most magical symbols.

Therefore, it didn’t surprise him that the black-robed young man

targeted him. He had actually made preparations for such an occasion.

“Hahaha!” The young man in black laughed wildly as he pointed his long saber towards Nie Tian and said, “I made you my target soon after I got here. I assume you’re smart enough to see that.”

Nie Tian nodded. “You’re right. I did.”

“My name is Wu Ling, and I’m from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation.” The black-robed man took the initiative to state his own name. The smile on his face didn’t fade even in the slightest, while the bizarrely shaped saber in his hand started to emanate gray-brown colored, shimmering light.

The eyelids of the seven closed eyes on the blade were twitching, as if they were going to snap open in the next moment.

The long, dreadful saber sent out a strong killing intent into the surroundings. The gray-brown light that had flown out of the blade gradually condensed and morphed into a sinister, ferocious tiger.

ROOOAARRRR!!

The shimmering tiger let out an ear-piercing howl.

Nie Tian immediately experienced a stabbing pain in his head, as if the howl was already so powerful that it actually defied the space

and obstruction of Nie Tian's body, and reached the deepest part of his soul, giving him a violent shudder.

His pupils shrunk as he hurriedly used his psychic power to form layers of shields to prevent the roars of the tiger from piercing into his soul.

FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ!

More strands of grayish brown light shot out of the long saber like slithering lightning bolts.

The ferocious tiger bared its fangs and brandished its claws as it swooped towards Nie Tian in the middle of a rain of slithering lightning bolts.

Wu Ling, on the other hand, took his time and walked towards Nie Tian after them.

PUFF!

It was at that time that the seven-colored bubble around Wu Ling suddenly burst.

The tall Wu Ling landed heavily on the floor of the palace hall. His eyes were brimming with a thirst for blood and the aura that he released into the surroundings was filled with a killing intent.

PUFF! PUFF! PUFF!

Nie Tian, Su Lin, and the white-robed young man from the Realm of Endless Ice also dropped to the ground from midair.

It was as if the moment killing intent was born in Wu Ling's heart, the area that they were in changed.

The seven-colored bubbles that had shuttled the four of them to the palace burst at the same time.

Now the four of them were standing in the four corners of the hard, ice-cold stone floor, separated from each other by about a hundred meters, with the rich, misty spiritual Qi of heaven and earth filling the space between them.

Seeing that Wu Ling could no longer suppress the urge to fight Nie Tian, Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect of the Realm of Mystic Heaven frowned, as if she was hesitating.

She seemed to be trying to decide if she should attack the white-robed young man from the Realm of Endless Ice.

By that time, every one of them had realized that in order to complete the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation and take the legacy back to the Domain of the Falling Stars, they would have to snatch Heaven Sparks from the other three.

After all, only by obtaining all the Heaven Sparks from the other

three would they be able to get all the symbols that constituted the incantation.

The reason why Su Lin didn't make a move immediately after Wu Ling was that she originally considered Wu Ling to be her first target.

However, apparently Wu Ling knew about her strength and didn't want to meet her on battlefield so soon, so he chose to fight Nie Tian instead.

She soon saw through Wu Ling's plans.

There were two reasons why Wu Ling picked Nie Tian. For one thing, by attacking Nie Tian, he would naturally leave the white-robed young man to Su Lin, who he believed would wear out some of her strength.

For another, in Wu Ling's eyes, Nie Tian was so much weaker that any of them that he wouldn't need to spend much energy to kill him.

By the time he killed Nie Tian and looted his fifteen Heaven Sparks, Su Lin and the young man in white would probably still be locked in battle.

At that time, he would have two options. One, join hands with the white-robed young man and fight Su Lin together. Two, sit out the fight and deal with the winner of the two.

Wu Ling thought his plan was impeccable, and making Nie Tian his first opponent was undoubtedly the optimum choice.

However, both Su Lin and the white-robed young man saw through his plans.

They didn't instantly start fighting, since they both feared that if they did and Wu Ling managed to finish off Nie Tian very quickly, he would gain the upper hand and take advantage of their fight.

Therefore, the two of them exchanged a glance and remained in their own places.

From the look of it, they had reached a mutual understanding without saying a word.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

One after another, the strands of shimmering light morphed into numerous wiggling lightning snakes, and bit towards Nie Tian.

In the middle of the flood of snakes, a roaring tiger lunged towards Nie Tian, emanating a strong thirst for blood.

ROOOAARRRR!! ROOOAARRRR!!

Heaven-shaking, earth-shattering roars came out of the ferocious

tiger's mouth and went straight towards Nie Tian's mind.

In face of the constant roars, the shields that Nie Tian had condensed with his psychic power repeatedly shattered and reformed.

By doing that, Nie Tian consumed his psychic power at an astonishingly fast speed.

Nie Tian's expression flickered. "He's really hard to deal with!"

Just as he was about to summon strength to contend with the tiger that was roaring towards him, an idea suddenly occurred to him.

He glanced at the about thirty spiritual energy balls that were floating around him and noticed that one of them was floating right in between him and the incoming tiger.

Although he had discarded those spiritual energy balls after sucking them dried of the special energy, since it was him who created them, there were still mysterious connections between him and every single one of them.

He made an experiment by sending a wisp of psychic awareness into that spiritual energy ball.

He instantly got the feeling that the spiritual energy ball had become a part of him, an extension of his limbs, as he could keenly

sense the unceasing energy fluctuations within it.

“Go!” With a wisp of his psychic power, Nie Tian commanded the spiritual energy ball to fly towards the roaring, incoming tiger.

SHEW!

The spiritual energy ball that had been floating in midair followed his command and rammed forcefully into the ferocious tiger.

Upon collision, the ball that contained immense spiritual power instantly exploded.

BOOM!

Dazzling light shot out of the shattered ball. Like a small sun, its explosion gave rise to a blast wave that contained destructive power.

The roaring tiger, along with the hissing snakes flying by its side, was instantly engulfed by the blinding light.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Under Nie Tian’s gaze, they were all torn into shreds by the light and blast wave created by the explosion of the spiritual energy ball!

The explosion of the spiritual energy ball completely eliminated Wu Ling's attack!

Wu Ling felt a strong shock to his tall and well built body. Eyes filled with surprise, he looked at the place where the spiritual energy ball exploded.

From his grim face, Nie Tian could tell that Wu Ling never expected the spiritual energy balls that he had condensed and cast aside to be put back to use at that moment.

While he was standing there aghast, Nie Tian, who had savored the sweet taste of victory, gave a smile and unleashed several wisps of psychic power.

They simultaneously entered six spiritual energy balls, and strong connections were instantly created between them and Nie Tian.

Nie Tian felt as if he had control over them so accurate that they had become his arms and fists.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Under the command of his psychic awareness, the six spiritual energy balls rapidly floated towards Wu Ling.

Upon seeing the six spiritual energy balls whizzing towards him, Wu Ling's face turned so grim that it was as if he had kicked his

bare foot into a steel plate.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

With a cold harrumph and a swing of his long saber, numerous ten-meter long light blades flew out of his saber.

Three of the six closed eyes on the blade also violently snapped open.

All of a sudden, not only did the energy fluctuations that emerged from Wu Ling double, but the aura around him also became turbulent and bloodthirsty.

“BREAK!”

One light blade after another shot through the air in perfect arcs before slashing down on the six spiritual energy balls.

Upon contact, the energy balls immediately exploded, sputtering out countless sparks into every direction.

The sparks fell like stars from the starry river, filling the region where Wu Ling was standing.

Standing in a sea of fragmented sparks, Wu Ling's face distorted as he reached out with one hand and tore off his black robe with one quick motion.

A greenish-brown spiritual armor that clung tightly to his body suddenly appeared.

Numerous strands of bright light that were as sharp as arrows extended into the surroundings from within the spiritual armor.

At first glance, Wu Ling seemed to have become a giant hedgehog. The sharp, bright lights that had protruded out of his armor killed off the sparks around him in a split second.

Staring at Wu Ling, who was now holding a long saber and covered in a bizarre armor, Nie Tian muttered to himself, “He must be one of the chosen ones that my master warned me about.”

Chapter 172: Evil Psychic Power

Before Nie Tian headed to the Hell sect to participate in the Heaven Gate trial, Wu Ji had mentioned to him that chosen ones from the other nine realms would also be there.

They were all talented young cultivators who had profound, high-level spiritual tools and spiritual incantations at their disposal.

Apart from that, every single one of them had a master with unlimited resources... any of whom could possibly be even more powerful than Wu Ji.

Furthermore, the Qi warrior sects that they were from were also far stronger than the Cloudsoaring sect, and could potentially have longer histories and more resources than the Hell sect.

Wu Ji urged him to be extra careful if he came across such chosen ones.

In Nie Tian's eyes, Wu Ling from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation must be one of the chosen ones that his master had warned him about.

The long, strange saber in his hand and the spiritual armor he was wearing were both far beyond ordinary.

Nie Tian had seen Wu Ling being engulfed by the millions of

sparks created when the spiritual energy balls exploded.

However, as soon as Wu Ling unveiled his spiritual armor, just the bright light that shot out of it managed to kill off every last one of the sparks.

Afterwards, Wu Ling stood there, completely unscathed. Only the light that had shot out of his spiritual armor slightly dimmed.

“It seems that I’ve underestimated the Realm of Flame Heaven.” Wu Ling made his way through a sea of sparks as he strode towards Nie Tian.

With every step he took, countless rays of light shot out from his spiritual armor, extinguishing the sparks near him.

Wu Ling frowned as he said. “I didn’t expect the Realm of Flame Heaven to have people this impressive...” From the look of it, he had finally started to consider Nie Tian as a worthy opponent and no longer dared to underestimate him.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The long saber in Wu Ling’s hand constantly exuded faint auras. All of a sudden the three eyes on the blade focused on Nie Tian.

As soon as they locked onto Nie Tian, Nie Tian started to experience stabbing pains in his eyes, after which tears began uncontrollably flowing out of them.

Meanwhile, a surge of bloodthirsty, evil psychic power entered Nie Tian's mind.

Clearly, the evil psychic power didn't come from Wu Ling, but rather came from the saber itself.

To be exact, it came from the three wide open eyes on the blade.

The eyes were originally a dark, blue-violet color. However, at that moment, they suddenly shed their original color and became green, red, and black.

He had the feeling that he had been locked down by three terrifying, fiendish devils, and the moment they entered him, they started gnawing on his mind.

Nie Tian hurriedly steadied his mind and rapidly retracted the psychic power that he had sent out to control the spiritual energy balls.

He gathered all his psychic power in his mind and turned it into giant, sharp blades, madly cutting through the evil psychic power that had invaded his mind, hoping to get rid of it as soon as possible.

"I can't believe that your psychic power is every bit as strong as mine!" Wu Ling grinned. His expression was brutal and sinister as he continued, "But what a shame. Apparently you don't seem to

know any psychic magics. It makes sense though. After all, you're from the Realm of Flame Heaven, which is the weakest of all nine realms. Plus, considering your poor cultivation base, I guess you haven't met the qualifications to learn those profound psychic magics yet."

With a vicious grin on his face, he gradually sped up as he approached Nie Tian.

At that moment, Nie Tian's mind had already been occupied by the evil psychic power and could no longer command the spiritual energy balls to block Wu Ling's way forward.

The distance between them quickly shortened from dozens of meters to less than ten meters.

Within such a short distance, the effect of all of Wu Ling's spiritual incantations and secret magics would be maximized.

All of a sudden, he stopped.

SHEW!

A blade of light that was almost twenty meters long shot out of his bizarrely shaped long saber, and started to devour the spiritual energy around it the moment it was formed.

Seconds later, the originally long and thin light blade expanded several times and became a terrifying, wide blade that could slice

open the heavens. Without any hesitation, it slashed towards Nie Tian.

“What a pity...” Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect in the Realm of Mystic Heaven softly shook her head, assuming Nie Tian would die beyond the shadow of a doubt.

She also noticed that Nie Tian’s mind had already been invaded by the evil psychic power that had originated from the three demonic eyes on Wu Ling’s blade.

Even though Nie Tian’s psychic power was by no means weaker than Wu Ling’s, he didn’t seem to know any high-leveled psychic magics that he could use to contend with the psychic attack of the three demonic eyes.

Under the fierce attack, Nie Tian’s soul seemed to have already been occupied, and thus he couldn’t even bring himself up to defend against the incoming slash of the terrifying light blade.

She was convinced that Nie Tian was facing inevitable doom.

At that moment, the surge of evil psychic power had already turned into a hurricane within Nie Tian’s soul, raging and havocking, as if it was going to tear his soul into shreds.

The shield that Nie Tian had condensed with his psychic power rapidly repeated the process of shattering and reforming under the devastating impact.

Nie Tian did his utmost to defend his soul.

He could vaguely see three light dots within the center of the dark hurricane, colored green, red, and black. It was as if the three demonic eyes were issuing commands from within the eye of the hurricane.

Apparently, the frightening eyes on Wu Ling's saber had penetrated Nie Tian's mind along with the the invasion of the evil psychic power.

It was precisely due to their existence that Nie Tian's mind was currently in utter chaos. It seemed that Nie Tian hadn't found a way to effectively fight back with his own psychic power.

As Nie Tian felt his psychic power draining at frightening speed, and his defense was on the verge of breaking down, he decisively took out another talisman that his master had bestowed upon him.

Under the stimulation of a wisp of his psychic power, the talisman instantly flew out of his bracelet of holding.

In in the next moment, seven layers of jade-like spiritual power shields enveloped Nie Tian.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

As soon as the shields took form, the evil psychic power that had invaded Nie Tian's mind started to change.

Numerous bright sparks flowed out of the seven layers of shields and rapidly entered Nie Tian's soul.

The moment they fell into the ravaging hurricane, the three demonic eyes that had been blinking and unleashing strange power from the center died out, like candles that had been blown out by a strong gale.

At the same time, the link between Wu Ling's saber and the evil psychic power was cut off.

HISSS! HISSS!

One after another, countless strands of dark aura rose out of the corners of Nie Tian's eyes before vanishing into the seven layers of dazzling spiritual power.

As a result, Nie Tian's chaotic mind was instantly returned to peace.

It was also at that moment that an incomparably giant light blade whizzed down towards him.

BANG!

As soon as it slashed onto the light shields surrounding Nie Tian, a loud sound echoed out along with blinding light and bright sparks.

From the front part where contact was made, the light blade cracked inch by inch and shattered into small pieces. However, only two of the seven layers of light shields were compromised and disappeared.

Meanwhile, Nie Tian experienced nothing but a surge of power pushing him backwards. No harm was inflicted.

It was just that he had consumed a significant amount of his psychic power to defend his soul.

“A talisman from my master can withstand the full-force strike of a Greater Heaven stage Qi warrior. As powerful as Wu Ling is, he’s only in the Lesser Heaven stage. Even though he boosts his attack with his formidable spiritual weapon, the might of his attack can’t match that of a raging attack from a Greater Heaven stage Qi warrior.”

Nie Tian gradually became clear-headed and with a grim face, he stared at Wu Ling.

Enveloped by five light shields and completely rid of influence of the evil psychic power, Nie Tian once again summoned his psychic power.

In an instant, numerous wisps of his psychic power shot into the remaining spiritual energy balls before all sixteen of them were sent flying towards Wu Ling with great strength and vigor.

After realizing that he had failed to kill Nie Tian with one strike, Wu Ling secretly frowned. Looking at the remaining five layers of jade-like shields surrounding Nie Tian, he gave a cold snort and said, “It seems that you’ve got a good master.”

Su Lin, who had been observing the fight between Wu Ling and Nie Tian the whole time, was amazed by the spectacle of Wu Ling’s attack ending up fruitless and Nie Tian, on the other hand, regaining a clear head and launching a counterattack with the rest of the spiritual energy balls.

After staring aghast for a moment, she turned around to check the area that all the Heaven stage Qi warriors were in, and found that they were also in the middle of deadly battles.

After a brief assessment of the situation, Su Lin finally acknowledged Nie Tian’s strength and assumed that Nie Tian was probably strong enough to wear out Wu Ling from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation.

With such a thought, Su Lin made up her mind.

She, who had been sitting in silence, suddenly turned to the white-robed young man from the Realm of Endless Ice and said, “The first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation is in our hands. Now that Wu Ling has found a worthy opponent, there’s no

point in us waiting around. You and I both know that only by completing the first part of the incantation as soon as possible will we have the chance to cross the seven-colored river and try to get ahold of the middle part.”

With these words, she shot another glance at the area where all the Heaven stage experts were spilling each other’s blood.

The white-robed young man’s face turned pale with terror as he said, “What?! You even dare to think of obtaining the middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation?!”

“My sect is going to get all of the three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.” With a serious tone, she continued, “A martial uncle of mine is in the Greater Heaven stage area. I believe, with his strength, he’ll undoubtedly get the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

“Originally, our sect planned for someone to enter the Heaven stage area. But unfortunately, he failed his assignment and died before entering the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

“As you know, none of the Greater Heaven stage participants will be able to cross the seven-colored river into the Heaven stage area, even if they obtain the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

“Only Lesser Heaven stage cultivators will be able to cross the river and enter the Heaven stage area after gathering all parts of the first part of the incantation.

“We’re hell-bent on getting all three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation. Now that my martial uncle won’t be able to go to the Heaven stage area, I’ll have to do the honors.”

Chapter 173: Severing His Own Hand

The reason why Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect and the white-robed young man from the Realm of Endless Ice hadn't started fighting was that they both thought Nie Tian was too weak.

They were afraid that Wu Ling would be able to kill Nie Tian without the slightest effort, watch in safety while the two of them fought, and then reap the spoils when they were exhausted.

However, now they both realized that Nie Tian actually wasn't as weak as they had assumed and the fight between them was actually a close one. Therefore, they decided not to wait any longer, and began fighting.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

It was also at that time that Wu Ling swung his strange, long saber, and shot out numerous light blades, slicing each and every incoming spiritual energy ball into pieces.

Upon exploding, the spiritual energy balls sent out countless fragmented sparks, filling the entire sky before descending towards Wu Ling like fine rain.

Wu Ling's spiritual armor once again emanated dazzling lights that resembled sharp arrows, killing off all the sparks.

Nie Tian realized that the five jade-like light shields that the

talisman had unleashed were capable of holding off all the psychic attacks from Wu Ling.

That was why he could send out wisps of his own psychic power to direct the spiritual energy balls to bombard Wu Ling, in an attempt to wear out his strength.

Wu Ling, who was originally only ten meters away from Nie Tian, was shoved backwards by the strong impact before coming to a stop fifty meters away.

From Wu Ling's expression, Nie Tian could tell that after repeatedly brandishing his long saber to slice open the numerous spiritual energy balls and killing off the sparks with his spiritual armor, he had already grown somewhat weary.

After all, every slash of his saber consumed a sizable amount of his spiritual power.

The light that shot out of his spiritual armor that he was wearing also began to dim.

Nie Tian examined Wu Ling with rapt attention and found that only those spiritual energy balls alone seemed to be wearing out a large amount of his spiritual power.

“My plan worked!” he muttered to himself.

With that in mind, while continuing to bombard Wu Ling with

the remaining energy balls, he lifted his arm and pointed his hand towards the heavens as he attempted to condense more energy balls with the secret magic that he had learned from the mysterious land.

Within seconds, another table-size spiritual energy ball took shape. He extracted the special energy within that could help him replenish his psychic power with the fastest speed possible.

At the same time, he channeled some of the pure and refined spiritual energy into his spiritual sea.

Before long, his spiritual sea was refilled to the brim and the psychic power that he had consumed contending with Wu Ling's evil power was also rapidly recovering.

At that time, the energy ball already shrunk from the size of a table to the size of a balloon.

As soon as a wisp of Nie Tian's psychic power entered the energy ball, it whizzed towards Wu Ling with an amazing speed.

Without the slightest hesitation, he repeated the process to make more energy balls.

With the newly condensed energy balls, he only absorbed the special soul-nourishing energy within them and sent wisps of his psychic power into them, manipulating them to bombard Wu Ling, the moment they were drained of that special energy.

Just like that, numerous new energy balls were created and shot towards Wu Ling.

After repeating that process for awhile, not only did Nie Tian not consume any spiritual power, but he also restored his psychic power to the fullest.

Wu Ling, on the other hand, had been quite busy dealing with the bombardment of the unceasing line of energy balls. After such a large number of them exploded in front of him, the area around him had been filled with turbulent energy.

The way he brandished his long saber and stepped forward had also grown somewhat mechanical and stiff.

With more and more fragmented sparks scattered in front of him, it was as if Wu Ling was walking in a river of sparkling dots and every step he took became harder and more energy-consuming.

“His psychic power and spiritual power were both restored to their peak state!”

Stepping painstakingly towards Nie Tian, Wu Ling saw him repeatedly condense energy balls and shoot them at him. However, he found to his surprise that Nie Tian looked increasingly radiant, and the energy fluctuations inside of him showed no sign of exhaustion.

Looking at Nie Tian's excited and unwavering face, Wu Ling's confidence soon broke into pieces.

As a chosen one from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation, he initially attached no importance to Nie Tian, assuming that the kid from the Realm of Flame Heaven must be the easiest to deal with.

However, by now, he couldn't have regretted his poor judgment more.

He already wished he had chosen the white-robed young man instead of Nie Tian, in which case he likely wouldn't be in such a difficult position.

Perhaps, even facing the strongest competitor, Su Lin from the Realm of Mystic Heaven, he wouldn't have such a hard time approaching her.

"How come a character like this is from the Realm of Flame Heaven?!" Wu Ling exclaimed inwardly.

After madly condensing and casting energy balls for quite some time, Nie Tian suddenly came to a stop. "It's about time."

He realized that by that time, the seven demonic eyes on Wu Ling's blade had all opened up, and the light that shot out of each of them was no long fierce and suffocating. Apparently, it had also consumed a large portion of its power.

Furthermore, after killing off millions of sparks that sputtered out of the exploded energy balls, the spiritual armor on Wu Ling also began to look lifeless.

By this point, Nie Tian could no longer see the great confidence that used to fill Wu Ling's eyes.

Therefore, he understood that after a long period of attrition, Wu Ling was now actually on the verge of breaking down.

It was about time he ended the fight.

Without any hesitation, he summoned his psychic power, flesh power, flame power, and wood power, to create a three-meter radius chaotic magnetic field around him.

As soon as the magnetic field took form, he stepped towards Wu Ling.

The moment he entered the region that was filled with scattering sparks and turbulent energy fluctuations, the magnetic field surrounding him started to grow even more frenzied and disorderly.

By falling into the chaotic magnetic field, the countless fragmented sparks seemed to fuel the chaotic, twisting power within the magnetic field.

Only seconds later, he arrived right in front of Wu Ling.

Wu Ling's expression flickered.

The seven demonic eyes on his blade started to emanate lights of various colors.

As soon as the magnetic field took form, the five light shields that had been protecting Nie Tian seemed to be assimilated by the magnetic field.

Before, Wu Ling had repeatedly tried to attack Nie Tian with his evil psychic power.

However, seeing the attacks that the seven demonic eyes had launched were blocked by the five layers of intense spiritual energy around Nie Tian, he had temporarily stopped.

Now that he noticed that the protective light shields were no longer there, he assumed that it was about time he attacked again. Countless rays of blinding light shot out of the seven terrifying eyes and, along with a formidable, evil psychic power, shot towards Nie Tian.

However, the moment they entered the chaotic magnetic field, he lost connection with them.

Wu Ling's expression changed drastically as he suddenly experienced an excruciating pain in his mind and simultaneously,

a heart-wrenching wail rang out from within his long saber.

He immediately realized that the fiendish devil that had been sealed within his blade had also sustained injuries to its soul, and was now struggling to break away from the weapon.

Just as he was about to lose control of it, Nie Tian took another step forward, completely enveloping Wu Ling in the magnetic field.

In a flash, Wu Ling's psychic power, flesh power, and spiritual power became chaotic and disordered.

PUFF!

He coughed up a mouthful of blood, feeling as if his body had been thrown into a meat grinder, unbearable pains coming from every piece of his flesh.

"It's over!" Enveloped by the magnetic field, Nie Tian summoned strength from all the different kinds of power within him, and blasted out a rage punch towards Wu Ling's head.

The punch was full of devastating energy fluctuations and the might of it surpassed any of his former attacks.

As soon as Nie Tian launched the fist strike, Wu Ling realized how powerful it was and how much damage it would inflict.

Meanwhile, the devilish saber in his hand began to scream madly, as if it were also trying to warn him against the incoming attack.

Face distorted, Wu Ling gritted his teeth after communicating with the devil soul within his saber.

CRUNCH!

At that crucial moment, after receiving a positive answer from its master, the saber, to Nie Tian's surprise, cut off Wu Ling's left hand with a clean, quick slash.

The moment Wu Ling's Heaven Gate pattern bearing hand was severed from his arm, before it could even drop to the ground, Wu Ling seemed to be dragged by a unknown, irresistible force, as he blurred into a flash, disappearing from Nie Tian's sight.

Even though he saw that Wu Ling, his original target, had vanished in the blink of an eye, Nie Tian knew that he wouldn't be able to stop the momentum of his full-force punch, and thus continued the strike anyways.

BANG!

The moment the blast of his destructive punch hit Wu Ling's left hand, which hadn't had the time to fall, it exploded into a pink mist of fragmented flesh and the Heaven Sparks within it rapidly

flew into the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian's hand.

Chapter 174: Bloody Fights

After Wu Ling's left hand exploded, leaving not even a single bone behind, the eighteen Heaven Sparks that originally belonged to him instantly flew out and entered the Heaven Gate pattern on Nie Tian's hand.

Nie Tian examined the Heaven Sparks the moment they flew into his Heaven Gate pattern and found that there were numerous ancient symbols in them.

“Wu Ling...” Nie Tian glanced around and couldn't find even a trace of Wu Ling, and his psychic awareness also failed to sense his existence.

“He's gone?” Nie Tian thought to himself, confused.

After a thorough search, Nie Tian was convinced that Wu Ling had indeed disappeared from the palace.

From the look of it, Wu Ling knew the secrets of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace. When he was certain that he wouldn't be able to survive Nie Tian's rage punch, he decided to sever his own hand.

The moment his hand was separated from his arm, he seemed to be dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace by an unknown force.

After coming to an understanding about what had happened, Nie Tian felt a bit respectful toward Wu Ling. “He’s quite a character!”

After all, there weren’t many people who were willing to cut off their own hand with such decisiveness, even when they were facing death.

Most would rather leave things to chance than do such a brutal thing to themselves.

From such an act, Nie Tian could see the brutality and fierceness in Wu Ling’s character. He even grew convinced that Wu Ling would make outstanding achievements on his cultivation path if he could keep himself safe.

Even now that he had lost a hand, Nie Tian considered him to be a major enemy of his in the future. Meanwhile, Nie Tian reminded himself to go all out to kill him if he ran into him again. Leaving him alive could cost him greatly in the future.

PHOOH!

Nie Tian forced all the disturbing thoughts out of his mind and took a deep breath before sitting down where he was.

Throwing the rage punch had cost him too much power, so he had to recuperate as soon as possible.

He understood perfectly clearly that Wu Ling was extremely

dangerous, and that was also true of the long saber in his hand and the spiritual armor that he wore. Therefore, the only technique that he had anticipated to be powerful enough to kill him was the rage punch, even though he knew that the technique would drain his psychic power, flesh power, and spiritual power.

If he had been in other places he probably wouldn't have dared to use it. However, it was another story since he was in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

The spiritual energy here was far richer than anywhere he had ever been, so he would be able to rapidly recover his spiritual power via condensing more energy balls.

Furthermore, the special energy within would nourish his soul and help him restore psychic power.

That was why he had dared to use the rage punch.

After descending to the ground, the chaotic magnetic field around him still persisted.

He took out pieces of spirit beast meat from his bracelet of holding and started wolfing them down.

Within only a short period of time, he stuffed several dozen kilograms worth of meat down his throat. Without any hesitation, he started to condense energy balls and absorb the spiritual energy and faint special energy within them.

By the time the magnetic field surrounding him shrunk to a one-meter radius, he had already recovered most of his spiritual power.

He didn't pay attention to the fight between Su Lin and the white-robed young man, but rather concentrated on condensing more energy balls and restoring his strength as soon as possible.

Time passed quickly without him noticing it.

Nie Tian found his spiritual sea filled to the brim with pure spiritual power that he had absorbed from the semi-liquidized spiritual energy balls.

Afterwards, he created nine more energy balls, and recovered most of his psychic power with the special energy inside of them.

Simultaneously, a warm current was born in his stomach, replenishing the flesh power that he had consumed.

All the different types of power that he had consumed by casting the rage punch were soon to be completely restored.

Only then did Nie Tian spare his attention to observe the fight between Su Lin and the white-robed young man.

The young man was a master of frost incantations, so wherever he was, snow fell, filling the area around him.

Upon closer observation, the things that fell from the sky were translucent and sparkling, and were more like tiny crystals than snowflakes.

Each and every one of them carried bone-piercing coldness. Even the spiritual Qi of heaven and earth in that area seemed to be frozen and cracking sounds could be heard.

Underneath the young man's feet was impenetrable ice that was almost a meter thick. With every swing of the simple, unsophisticated-looking sword in his hand, which resembled a sharp blade made of ice, dozens of cold, piercing beams of light would shoot out of it.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

In the area between Su Lin and the young man, numerous crystal-like snowflakes constantly exploded, and the area seemed to be filled with strange and powerful energy fluctuations.

Quite confused, Nie Tian couldn't see what caused the explosions. When he used his psychic power to examine that area, his expression immediately flickered.

First of all, as soon as a wisp of his psychic power entered the area between them, it was pierced by the extreme coldness. He even felt a freezing sensation, as if the coldness had traced his psychic power back and reached his soul.

While he was still amazed by it, another force that was as desolate as the silver moonlight suddenly appeared.

As soon as it made contact with that wisp of Nie Tian's psychic power, Nie Tian's psychic power was snuffed out.

"A battle of psychic power!" Nie Tian was flabbergasted.

He realized what was happening.

The fights of their spiritual power and psychic power were actually taking place at the same time!

With a wave of Su Lin's hands, numerous blades that resembled crescent moons took form in front of her, before flying out to meet the white-robed young man's icy light beams.

However, the spiritual power fight between the two of them seemed to be quite regular and they both seemed to be handling it with ease.

The actual fierce fight was the fight between their psychic power.

Both of them sent their psychic power flying out of their minds, which met in fierce combat with each other in the area between them.

The white-robed young man's psychic power was like invisible ice blades that carried the profound truths of extreme coldness.

Su Lin's psychic power was as clear and chilly as the moonlight on an autumn night, which seemed even more profound and hard to perceive.

The strong impact created by the collision of their psychic power caused the crystal-like snowflakes in that area to explode one after another.

A bitter expression could be seen at the corner of Nie Tian's mouth. "A battle of psychic power at the Lesser Heaven stage! Plus, their psychic power is fighting with each other out in the open, instead of entering each other's mind..."

His understanding regarding Su Lin and the white-robed young man's strength reached a new level.

According to his master, only cultivators with late Heaven stage or higher cultivation bases would be able to have psychic power profound enough to start battles of psychic power out of the fleshy body.

The psychic power battle between cultivators with low cultivation bases would either be within their own minds or their opponents' minds.

After all, it was easier for them to cast those kinds of spells when

their psychic power was still weak.

However, even though Su Lin and the white-robed young man were both at the peak of the Lesser Heaven stage, they were capable of sending their psychic power to fight out in the open.

“God, they are strong.” Nie Tian shook his head as he secretly paid respect to the two of them. Upon the thought of fighting them himself, he started to grow a bit nervous.

It was also at that moment he realized that if it weren’t for the talisman that his master had bestowed upon him, he probably would have already been killed by Wu Ling’s psychic attack. He probably wouldn’t have survived the first round.

“Even though my psychic power can’t be considered weak, I need to learn some spells and techniques. Otherwise, I won’t even stand a chance fighting alone against those chosen ones from the other realms!” Nie Tian was secretly determined to ask Wu Ji to teach him psychic incantations after finishing this Heaven Gate trial.

From what he could tell, the fight between Su Lin and the white-robed young man would last for a while.

Furthermore, it seemed that the two of them were fighting tooth and nail using both of their spiritual power and psychic power, and didn’t even have the time to look at him.

He even believed that neither of them noticed when he had

forced Wu Ling to cut off his own hand.

Nie Tian shifted his gaze away from Su Lin and the white-robed young man and looked towards the area next to where the three of them were standing, where Heaven stage cultivators were also caught in tangled fights. “The first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation. There are still middle and final parts.”

There were originally six powerful experts in the Heaven stage area, but now only three were left standing.

However, there was only one corpse lying on the ground, which meant that the other two had probably given up their Heaven Sparks right before they were to be killed, just like Wu Ling had done.

From the look of it, the remaining three Heaven stage cultivators were all at the peak of the Heaven stage.

Each of them wielded a high-ranked spiritual tool as they fought in a disorderly manner. The area where they were standing was now filled with lightning, golden light, and flames while the three of them were covered in blood and their faces distorted and sinister, as if they had all gone mad.

After a brief assessment, Nie Tian was convinced that whoever the final winner would be, that one would also be seriously injured.

Then Nie Tian's gaze passed the area right in front of him and landed on the area where all the Greater Heaven stage cultivators were.

He saw Tang Yang and Miao Chen among the powerful Qi warriors who were currently fighting for the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

As he recalled it, when he was at the gate of the floating city, Miao Chen had single-handedly dealt with multiple Greater Heaven stage cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven, including Liu Yan and Li Fan.

All the cultivators around him had been afraid of his toxin-tainted spiritual power attacks.

However, Nie Tian found him now lying on the ground with a broken sword in his chest and from the look of it, he was already dead.

Tang Yang, on the other hand, was still wreathed by boundless, raging flames, fighting like a mad devil, but from what Nie Tian could tell, he wasn't in a favorable situation.

The powerful expert from the Heaven Palace sect, the one who Su Lin had referred to as her martial uncle, was currently being besieged by Tang Yang and other two experts, but on his expressionless face, Nie Tian saw nothing but calmness, as if he had utter confidence that he would overtake the three around him.

“Realm of Mystic Heaven, Heaven Palace sect!”

Chapter 175: I Want to Try!

The Realm of Mystic Heaven ranked first among the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars.

The Heaven Palace sect was the most powerful Qi warrior sect in the Realm of Mystic Heaven, and thus held a lofty position among the numerous powerful sects in the entire domain.

Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect was undoubtedly the strongest in the Lesser Heaven stage area, while in the Greater Heaven stage area, her martial uncle was skillfully handling three Greater Heaven stage experts at the same time.

Nie Tian was secretly amazed at how powerful the Heaven Palace sect was.

Compared to the fights that had taken place in the Lesser Heaven stage area, the fights in the Heaven stage area and Greater Heaven area were even more ferocious and bloody.

After observing for a while, Nie Tian withdrew his gaze from those two areas and refocused on Su Lin and the white-robed young man.

At that time, he had already recovered all the spiritual power and psychic power that he had consumed during his fight with Wu Ling.

Moreover, he had a feeling that after such drastic consumption, both his spiritual power and psychic power had gained some level of growth.

Only his flesh power hadn't reached its peak state.

Therefore, he took out several sizable pieces of spirit beast meat from his bracelet of holding and started munching.

While he ate, thirteen table-sized spiritual energy balls floated around him.

All of them had been drained of the special energy that could help Nie Tian recover his psychic power, but each and every one of them was still full of condensed spiritual energy.

One after another, wisps of psychic power silently flew out of Nie Tian and entered the thirteen spiritual energy balls around him.

With a thought, he commanded the spiritual energy balls to slowly float to the area between him and Su Lin.

Afterwards, he kept an eye on the fight between Su Lin and the white-robed young man as he continued to create more energy balls.

Nie Tian learned from his fight with Wu Ling that the incomparably pure and rich spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the palace could be turned into powerful weapons after being

condensed into spiritual energy balls.

By doing that, he would be able to use them against the winner when the fight between Su Lin and the white-robed young man was over.

He planned to use the spiritual energy balls to wear out whatever was left of the winner's strength, and then launch the killing strike when he or she was exhausted.

He pondered his plans while unceasingly creating spiritual energy balls with the spiritual energy in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

Time passed quickly, and it wasn't very long before there were twenty-one spiritual energy balls floating not far away from him.

At that time, he saw that the cold eyes of the young man from the Realm of Endless Ice were already filled with fatigue.

Although he was still swinging his simple and unsophisticated sword, the light that it emanated was already not as bright as it had been, and the energy fluctuations within him had also grown weak.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

As Su Lin weaved her fingers in the air, numerous crescent moon-shaped blades immediately took shape.

The hundreds of curved blades formed a special formation as they pushed towards the white-robed young man, slicing the frozen ground under his feet into small fragments.

At that moment, Su Lin's eyes suddenly took on a silver color, making them look as cold as the winter moon.

In the area between her and the white-robed young man, countless crystal-like snowflakes continued to explode and scatter tiny ice shards into the surroundings.

The white-robed young man seemed to have sustained a heavy blow and suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood. His face immediately turned as pale as a piece of paper.

With a calm expression on her face, Su Lin said indifferently, "Xuan Ke, since your sect and mine have a good relationship, I don't intend to kill you. Give me the Heaven Gate pattern on your hand and I'll spare your life."

At that time, Xuan Ke from the Realm of Endless Ice came to the realization that he didn't have any other choice.

He lowered his head and pondered the matter for a while. Without saying a word, he frowned and cut a piece of flesh off of the back of his hand with his sword.

Within it sixteen Heaven Sparks were still glittering with bright

light.

Compared to what Wu Ling had done to himself, what he did was much less brutal.

He only lost a piece of flesh that would grow back through time.

However, unlike him, Wu Ling did what he had to do in a moment of life or death. He didn't have the time to so carefully cut off only the skin and flesh that carried the Heaven Sparks.

Facing Nie Tian's fatal rage punch, he could only sever his whole hand as quickly as possible.

Just as Xuan Ke was about to hand the piece of his own flesh to Su Lin, he turned his head and caught sight of Nie Tian. "What!?"

Su Lin followed his gaze and also looked towards Nie Tian.

The two of them had been completely concentrated on their fight and didn't have the time to check on the fight between Nie Tian and Wu Ling.

They both anticipated that the fight between Nie Tian and Wu Ling would be still going on.

However, now that they looked over, they discovered that Wu Ling was already nowhere to be found and eighteen glittering

Heaven Sparks were already added to the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian's hand.

This meant that Nie Tian had already defeated Wu Ling, even though they didn't know what exactly happened.

At the same time, they also noticed the twenty-one energy balls that were floating in front of Nie Tian, releasing shockingly strong energy fluctuations.

Xuan Ke and Su Lin both sent out their psychic power to examine Nie Tian, and found that Nie Tian's current battle prowess was basically the same as before he started fighting Wu Ling.

This indicated that not only had Nie Tian defeated Wu Ling, but he also rapidly recovered his strength after their fight.

Numerous expressions flashed across both of Xuan Ke and Su Lin's faces. "The Realm of Flame Heaven..."

Neither of them had ever thought that Nie Tian would be the winner of the fight between him and Wu Ling.

They found it hard to believe that a middle Lesser Heaven stage nobody from the Realm of Flame Heaven, the weakest realm of the nine, had actually forced Wu Ling to give up his Heaven Sparks.

Both of them stared blankly at Nie Tian.

However, at that moment, Xuan Ke suddenly felt like he was seized by an unknown force.

In the next moment, he disappeared from the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace under Nie Tian's gaze.

Only the piece of flesh that he had cut off of his hand was left in midair. As soon as Su Lin reached out and grabbed it, the sixteen Heaven Sparks flew out of it like tiny stars, and merged into Su Lin's jade hand.

Just like Wu Ling, Xuan Ke was teleported out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace right after he lost his Heaven Gate pattern.

At this point, Su Lin from the Heaven Palace sect and Nie Tian from the Realm of Flame Heaven were the only ones left in the Lesser Heaven stage area.

They looked each other in the eye.

Nie Tian saw nothing but composure in Su Lin's eyes as she unhurriedly took out three pills that emanated a strong medicinal aroma from her ring of holding, and swallowed them in front of him.

After a moment of silence, Su Lin said with a sincere tone, "I don't want to waste my power on you. My real enemy is the

winner in the Heaven stage area. I need to be in my peak state when I go fight him in that area.

“So, I’ll spare your life as long as you cut off the Heaven Gate pattern on your hand and give it to me, like what Xuan Ke just did. That way you’ll be able to leave the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace alive.

“I hope you realize that even though you somehow defeated Wu Ling, you won’t stand a chance against me.

“I have to tell you that if you ever decide to fight me instead of taking my offer, I’ll hold nothing back to kill you and take your Heaven Sparks.

“You’d better give it a thorough consideration.”

Apparently, Su Lin hoped that Nie Tian would choose to give up his Heaven Sparks and leave the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

After all, she had a bigger ambition and didn’t want to waste her energy on Nie Tian.

However, she sounded so utterly confident that if Nie Tian ever dared to start a fight, she would kill him within seconds.

Nie Tian gave a smile and said, “You’ve consumed a lot of spiritual power and psychic power during your fight with Xuan Ke. From what I can tell, your battle prowess is only sixty to seventy

percent of your peak state.

“But I, on the other hand, have already fully recovered my strength, since I finished Wu Ling off much earlier.

“You really have confidence that you can overtake me? Are you sure that I’ll be the one who gets killed if we start fighting?”

With a nod, Su Lin said, “I’m sure.”

Nie Tian’s fighting spirit seemed to be stimulated by her blind confidence. He laughed broadly and said, “I’ll take my chances!”

Without further communication, Nie Tian sent out a wisp of his psychic power and commanded the spiritual energy balls to bombard towards Su Lin.

Su Lin frowned and shook her head. “You should have taken my offer.”

SHEW!

She blurred into a flash of chilly moonlight and rapidly threaded her way through the space between the energy balls, before they were even able to approach her.

Originally she was about a hundred meters away from Nie Tian, which he considered to be a safe distance.

However, she was so fast that it practically took her no time to pass the cluster of spiritual energy balls and shorten the distance between them.

It happened so fast that Nie Tian didn't even have the time to make them explode.

Neither his eyes or his psychic power could follow Su Lin and locate her as she flashed forward.

Chapter 176: Superb Observation Skills

Su Lin was too fast.

Before Nie Tian had the time to react, she had already passed through the cluster of spiritual energy balls, and was closing in on him.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

One after another, numerous crescent moon-shaped blades that were created by Su Lin's pure spiritual power slashed towards Nie Tian.

PUFF! PUFF! PUFF!

Each and every one of them cut into Nie Tian's flesh as he subconsciously jumped backwards. Blood immediately soaked Nie Tian's garments.

As soon as he got a steady foothold, he saw even more curved blades flying towards him like raindrops.

Su Lin, on the other hand, traveled towards Nie Tian like a ray of blue light as she constantly shifted her position in the space between those blades.

She was so fast that both Nie Tian's sight and psychic power

failed to lock onto her. He could only watch as the sky-filling, crescent moon-shaped blades flooded towards him.

Wracked by excruciating pain, Nie Tian ran backwards as fast as he could to put a safe distance between himself and Su Lin.

It wasn't until then did he realize that Su Lin was a much stronger opponent than Wu Ling, and she probably didn't go all out when she fought Xuan Ke earlier.

By merely using a superior moving technique, she had managed to travel through Nie Tian's spiritual energy balls like a ghost and invalidate all the effort that he had spent.

According to Nie Tian's original plan, he would first use the numerous spiritual energy balls to bombard Su Lin, the same way he had Wu Ling, so as to drain Su Lin's strength.

Then, when Su Lin was exhausted, he would bring out the chaotic magnetic field and envelop her with it before he launched the fatal attack.

Unfortunately, his entire plan went down the drain the moment Su Lin made a move.

Su Lin stopped her ghostly moves when she was ten meters away from Nie Tian. With numerous shiny, silver blades that resembled crescent moons hovering around her, she said, "I'll give you another chance."

At the same time, the blades suddenly sped up and turned into a tempest, unleashing an aura so fierce that it seemed to be capable of annihilating all things.

From the look of it, as soon as it enveloped Nie Tian, he would be instantly reduced to nothing but chunks of flesh and bones.

“Do as Xuan Ke did and cut off the flesh on the back of your hand and I’ll allow you to leave the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace in one piece.” Robe fluctuating against the wind, Su Lin said with an indifferent face, “but, if you refuse to come to your senses, don’t blame me for what I’ll do to you.”

While she talked, a dazzling moonlight that carried strong energy shone out of the raging blade storm.

“This doesn’t make sense,” Nie Tian muttered to himself.

He didn’t believe that Su Lin was a merciful person. Furthermore, they didn’t know each other before the trial, and from what he knew, the Cloudsoaring sect never had any relationship with the Heaven Palace sect.

According to the power that Su Lin had displayed, she would very easily break Nie Tian’s defense as long as she kept going.

However, instead of continuing to rain blades on him, she stopped to threaten and urge him again.

Nie Tian didn't think Su Lin did that out of respect. If she was indeed as powerful as she said, she wouldn't need to waste her breath talking.

Nie Tian had a feeling that perhaps Su Lin was hiding something.

“Could it be that she actually sustained serious injuries from her fight with Xuan Ke? Or the power that she has consumed is actually more than what she expected?”

“She hastily took three medicinal pills as soon as she finished her fight with Xuan Ke. She probably still needs time to refine and absorb those pills.

“Did she intentionally pose a threatening manner to cover her weakness?”

Eyes fixed on Su Lin, Nie Tian thoroughly thought for a moment and suddenly came to a realization.

Su Lin didn't cast any psychic power spells to attack him.

When he fought Wu Ling, Wu Ling had almost immediately gained the upper hand with the evil psychic power that shot out of the demonic eyes on his saber.

It was the talisman that Nie Tian's master had bestowed upon

him that shielded off the deadly attack and saved his life.

Su Lin and Xuan Ke both saw it.

Therefore, Su Lin must have long since realized that even though Nie Tian possessed strong psychic power, he hadn't mastered any profound magics to put it to proper use.

As wise as Su Lin was, she probably knew that psychic attacks were the way to go if she wanted to end Nie Tian as quickly as possible.

What's more, Nie Tian witnessed how powerful her psychic attacks were when she fought Xuan Ke, and he was absolutely certain that her mastery of psychic power even surpassed Wu Ling.

In this situation, Su Lin didn't use psychic power against him, which had already been proved to be fast and effective, but instead, she resorted to the crescent moon-shaped blades...

"She must have over-consumed her psychic power during her fight with Xuan Ke. Her soul may have even sustained serious injuries!

"Only that would explain why she choose spiritual power magics over the direct and simple psychic power magics.

"Those three medicinal pills were probably for the injuries to her soul, and the reason why she repeatedly urged me to surrender

must be that she needs time to absorb them and recover from her injuries!”

A series of ideas flashed across Nie Tian’s mind before he finally came to a surprising conclusion.

Nie Tian laughed out loudly as he suddenly concentrated all his psychic power and stared into Su Lin’s eyes. “Do me a favor and kill me! Please!”

In a flash, his condensed psychic power effortlessly entered Su Lin’s soul.

The process was so easy and smooth that he found it hard to believe.

Normally speaking, any cultivator who knew a few psychic power magics would keep their guard up against psychic attacks at all times.

Even for him, a beginner with psychic magics, he could condense his psychic power into multiple defensive shields, preventing the enemy’s psychic power from invading his mind.

Therefore, Su Lin, a chosen one from the Realm of Mystic Heaven who had just proven her outstanding power during her fight with Xuan Ke, shouldn’t have so easily allowed his psychic power to enter her mind.

After realizing what Nie Tian had done, a subtle, frightened look appeared in Su Lin's bright eyes.

Even though she considered Nie Tian's psychic power to be ridiculously puny, apparently Nie Tian launching psychic power attacks was the least she wanted to see.

The moment Nie Tian's psychic awareness entered Su Lin's mind he grew excited. "I knew it!"

Within Su Lin's mind, he found himself standing in front of three giant, floating glaciers!

The three of them must have been created and put there by Xuan Ke's psychic power. Until this point, they were still drifting around and ravaging Su Lin's soul while unleashing a bone-piercingly cold aura.

Nie Tian looked up and saw a bright crescent moon hanging high above the three glaciers.

Numerous rays of moonlight constantly shot out of the moon, morphed into silver blades, and chopped towards the three glaciers, slowly reducing the size of the glaciers.

"She might have inflicted even more severe damage on Xuan Ke's soul, which resulted in his surrender.

"However, some of his psychic power that carried an ice-cold

aura was left in Su Lin's soul and took the form of three gigantic glaciers. Considering Su Lin's strength, given a little more time to dissolve the three medicinal pills, she would soon eliminate all three enormous glaciers and recover from her injuries.

“She knew that I had pretty much recovered all my strength, but she herself wasn't in a favorable condition to start a fight. After all, since the three giant glaciers are still weighing down on her mind, she won't be able to use many of her exquisite techniques and spells. She actually desperately needs time to smash the glaciers and replenish her psychic power.

“All the threatening, urging, and imposing manners were actually ways to buy more time for her recovery!”

Nie Tian literally saw through Su Lin's mind.

Chapter 177: Nie Tian from the Realm of Flame Heaven!

The moment Nie Tian's psychic awareness entered Su Lin's soul, she realized that it wasn't looking good for her.

The three giant glaciers that Xuan Ke had condensed and left within her were still unleashing freezing coldness, causing damage to her soul.

Even though she was certain that she had also inflicted serious damage on Xuan Ke and forced him to drop out of their fight, she also knew very clearly that he had done the same to her. It was just that her injuries weren't as severe as his.

Obviously, knowing that Su Lin was stronger than him, Xuan Ke had gone all out to fight her so as to get the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

All the threats and confidence were merely a show that she had put on.

She did all of those things to scare Nie Tian off, so that she would be able to spend the least time and effort to obtain all the magical symbols that Nie Tian had and give her as much time as possible to recuperate.

After all, the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation alone wasn't her goal. Her goal was to get both the first part and the

middle part.

For that reason, she could afford to waste her time and energy on Nie Tian. He needed all the time she could get to heal her wounds, replenish her power, and adjust herself to her peak state.

However, she never thought Nie Tian, a young nobody from the Realm of Flame Heaven, would defeat Wu Ling and so shrewdly see through her weakness.

Now she realized that Nie Tian was determined to launch attacks with his psychic power and hit her where it was still sore.

Su Lin's opinion of Nie Tian was completely overthrown by this point, and she finally decided to give him the credit that he deserved. "It seems that I've underestimated you, kid from the Realm of Flame Heaven."

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Inside of Su Lin's soul, numerous rays of chilly moonlight shot out of the crescent moon in the sky.

Originally, their target had been the three glaciers that Xuan Ke had put there.

However, each of the numerous rays of moonlight suddenly split into dozens of light rays as they pierced towards Nie Tian's psychic awareness that had invaded Su Lin's soul.

PHOOH!

Nie Tian's psychic awareness condensed and morphed into a vague figure.

Upon a closer look of the figure, it was none other than Nie Tian himself, only not in fleshly form.

Nie Tian's psychic awareness constantly shifted its position to dodge the piercingly cold moonlight.

At the same time, the ghost-like Nie Tian secretly approached the three enormous glaciers, from which he sensed nothing but utter coldness.

However, he wasn't the target of the bone-piercing coldness.

The cold aura that floated out of the glaciers seemed to have caught a whiff of the moonlight's aura and immediately rushed over, eliminating Su Lin's psychic attack within seconds.

Meanwhile...

Xuan Ke, who had lost his Heaven Gate pattern and disappeared from the palace, appeared outside of another dilapidated city.

Around him stood three Greater Heaven stage experts from the

Realm of Endless Ice.

The wound on Xuan Ke's hand had already stopped bleeding. Sitting in the middle of those powerful experts with his eyes narrowed, he was healing the injuries to his soul with a mysterious medicinal pill from the Ice Pavilion sect.

Xuan Ke's eyes snapped open.

“What's wrong, Young Lord?” One of the Greater Heaven stage experts asked.

Xuan Ke didn't answer immediately, but rather squinted his eyes and sensed carefully with his psychic power.

A while passed and his expression flickered. A faint, strange laugh could be seen on his cold and grim face.

“That guy actually perceived the injuries to Su Lin's soul! And he even had the audacity to fight her! It seems that we've underestimated this guy from the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“Actually it's not bad news for us. Now that we can't get all three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, the Heaven Palace sect had better not get it either.

“Let me help you, kid!”

Xuan Ke took a deep breath and reached out his hand. “Six Exhaustions Pill!”

“What do you want to do with it, Young Lord?!” a powerful expert from the Ice Pavilion sect asked with shock on his face.

Xuan Ke let out a cold harrumph and said, “Six Exhaustions Pill!!!”

The man didn’t dare to say another word and hastily took out a prism-shaped pill. A bone-piercing cold aura floated out of it as he handed it to Xuan Ke.

Xuan Ke grabbed it and swallowed it without any hesitation. Immediately afterwards, a surge of brand new soul fluctuations rippled out from within him. He seemed to have strengthened the faint link between him and the three floating glaciers in Su Lin’s soul.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Almost simultaneously, the glaciers in Su Lin’s soul seemed to have acquired a new strength, and white, icy mist started to rise from the surface of the glaciers.

The icy mist rapidly spread out into the surroundings with the three glaciers as the center.

Before long, the area within Su Lin’s soul where the glaciers were

floating seemed to be frozen and sealed by the bitter coldness!

All of the descending, chilly moonlight and even the crescent moon in the sky, which were embodiment of Su Lin's psychic power, seemed to be influenced by the cold aura. Both their might and the speed were greatly reduced.

The three glaciers, on the contrary, were expanding at a noticeable speed in the icy mist.

Standing in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, Su Lin sensed something had gone wrong and couldn't help but call out, "Xuan Ke!"

Raging anger filled Su Lin's eyes. Apparently, she knew perfectly well who was behind the anomaly that was now happening to the glaciers.

After seeing the expansion of the three giant glaciers and the icy mist that had come out of them, Nie Tian's expression flickered. "It must be Xuan Ke!"

Just like Su Lin, he almost immediately realized what was going on. It must be Xuan Ke who was secretly helping him by relying on the faint psychic connection between him and the glaciers.

He was aware that Xuan Ke wasn't his friend and he didn't do it because he wanted to help him.

He just didn't want to see the Heaven Palace sect from the Realm of Mystic Heaven take all three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

Nie Tian thanked Xuan Ke in his heart. While Su Lin had no choice but to focus all her power to deal with the three glaciers, his psychic awareness that was originally the shape of Nie Tian suddenly changed.

It turned into a giant pillar and directly charged towards the crescent moon hanging in the sky.

That crescent moon was the embodiment of Su Lin's psychic awareness and the source of her psychic power.

At that time, the icy mist that the glaciers had unleashed had already enveloped the crescent moon, causing it to have difficulty operating.

Nie Tian saw the opportunity and commanded the enormous pillar to ram into the crescent moon.

BOOM!

After receiving a strong blow to her soul, memories of her life, along with the mysterious magics and incantations she had learned from the Heaven Palace sect, suddenly became blurry and disordered.

In the outside world, standing amongst numerous hovering, curved blades, a pained expression appeared in Su Lin's eye.

It was at that time Nie Tian finally locked onto the seemingly vulnerable Su Lin.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

Without the slightest hesitation, Nie Tian commanded the numerous spiritual energy balls to turn around and once again bombard Su Lin.

CRACKLE! BOOM!

As soon as the spiritual energy balls rammed into the crescent moon shaped blades that were hovering around Su Lin, they exploded, and the area where she was standing was filled with blinding light and surging energy fluctuations.

As strong as Su Lin was, after the joint psychic attack from Nie Tian and Xuan Ke, along with the bombardment of the numerous spiritual energy balls, she sustained severe injuries.

PUFF!

Su Lin coughed up a mouthful of blood and the light in her eyes faded to a great extent.

The defensive storm of blades that she had condensed with her spiritual power also broke down after taking the strong blow.

Su Lin created a shield of moonlight around her with her last remaining strength. The countless sparks that had sputtered out of the energy balls and filled the area that Su Lin was standing in continued to hit her protective shield.

After receiving multiple strong blasts, Su Lin was now in an extremely dangerous situation. Not only did the injuries on her soul worsen, but even her fleshy body was now on the verge of destruction.

Su Lin gritted her white teeth as she cast a ferocious glare towards Nie Tian before she pressed her right palm on the back of her left hand and muttered something.

The Heaven Gate pattern that had been tattooed on the back of her left hand suddenly seemed to be detached from her skin, and with a swing of her right hand, the Heaven Gate pattern, together with the Heaven Sparks within it, flew out of her palm.

Su Lin let out a raging shout in the vast Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace. “Xuan Ke! I’m not going to let you get away with this!”

The Heaven Gate pattern and the Heaven Sparks within it rapidly entered Nie Tian’s hand.

“Do you dare tell me your name?” She glowered at Nie Tian.

“Nie Tian.”

Su Lin clenched her jaw and said, “Good. I’ll remember you! Mark my word. We’ll take the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation back!

“We’ll collect all three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation. No one will be able to stop us!”

As soon as she uttered these words, the light shield that she had created seemed no longer able to withstand the strikes from the countless sparks and was about to collapse.

However, at that moment, she was seized by a mysterious force, and started to emanate a seven-colored light so dazzling that Nie Tian couldn’t even keep his eyes open.

When the light disappeared, Nie Tian looked over and found that Su Lin was gone.

After Wu Ling from the Realm of Unbounded Desolation and Xuan Ke from the Realm of Endless Ice, Su Lin was the third to withdraw from the fight over the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation and leave the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

After receiving Su Lin’s Heaven Sparks, Nie Tian successfully gathered all the ancient symbols that carried the first part of the incantation into his own Heaven Gate pattern.

The moment Su Lin's Heaven Sparks fell into Nie Tian's Heaven Gate pattern, all the magical symbols that had been randomly scattered around immediately started to rearrange themselves!

Before long, the readable first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation presented itself to him.

Chapter 178: Soul Refining Magic!

All the Heaven Sparks rapidly merged with each other on the back of Nie Tian's hand.

The numerous magical symbols in the Heaven Sparks also realigned, presenting the readable and complete first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

It wasn't long before all the Heaven Sparks in Nie Tian's Heaven Gate pattern merged and turned into a hexagram.

The hexagram was located in the center of the Heaven Gate pattern, emanating a bright glow, within which lay all the realigned ancient symbols.

With a thought, Nie Tian sent a wisp of his psychic awareness into the hexagram.

He saw a large number of ancient symbols written neatly in the sky within the hexagram, almost like an unfurled bamboo scroll.

Without any hesitation, he started to read it with his psychic power.

However, it wasn't very long before he had the feeling that he had over consumed his psychic power and had to retract his psychic awareness from the hexagram.

Although he had retracted the psychic power that he had used to invade Su Lin's mind before she was dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, he found that he had consumed a large portion of his psychic power reading the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

With furrowed eyebrows, he looked towards the Heaven stage area and the Greater Heaven stage area to find that their fights were still going on.

Only two people were still alive in the Heaven stage area. Both of them had wounds and blood all over their body. From the look of it, whoever the winner would be, he wouldn't be in a much better situation than the defeated one.

Further off in the Greater Heaven stage area, Tang Yang and another cultivator were still attacking the powerful expert from the Heaven Palace sect together.

The Greater Heaven stage expert who Su Lin had referred to as her martial uncle looked somewhat tired after killing several of his enemies.

However, Tang Yang and the other cultivator seemed to be in much worse condition.

From what Nie Tian could tell, the winner in the Greater Heaven stage area would probably be Su Lin's martial uncle.

“It seems I’d better forget about the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.” Nie Tian muttered to himself as he retracted his gaze. “Perhaps, I’ll have a shot with the middle part.”

With these thoughts, he decided that he wouldn’t read the rest of the first part of the incantation.

In the Lesser Heaven stage area, where he was now the only person left, he once again used the technique that he had learned from the mysterious land to condense energy balls, and used the energy within them to replenish his spiritual and psychic power.

In the meantime, he took out several large chunks of spirit beast meat from his bracelet of holding and wolfed them down, so as to restore his peak state within the least amount of time.

He planned to wait for the right time and cross the seven-colored river into the Heaven stage area the moment one of them died.

He believed that he would only have a chance to snatch the middle part of the incantation from a Heaven stage cultivator when he was still weak from killing his opponent.

If the winner was given even a little time to recuperate with medicinal pills and the rich spiritual energy in the air, the chance of him getting the middle part of the incantation would be very slim.

PHEW! PHEW!

The intense spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth rapidly condensed into an energy ball as soon as Nie Tian cast the spell.

Just as he was about to absorb the condensed spiritual energy within it into his spiritual sea and nourish his soul with it, he suddenly noticed something.

Looking up, he saw that numerous rays of starlight were shooting out of the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

It was the same kind of light that had shone on the mysterious patterns on the palace walls and made them bright and dazzling.

However, the Qi warriors with different cultivation bases in the three areas had already used their psychic power to channel all the mysterious patterns into their Heaven Sparks.

Therefore, there wasn't a single pattern left on the walls now.

Upon a closer look, Nie Tian realized that the starlight that was shooting out of the mysterious river of stars was actually coming towards where he was standing.

At that time, Nie Tian felt a bright light also shooting up from below. He looked down and saw the hexagram in his Heaven Gate shining like a star.

It seemed that it was the hexagram that had attracted the starlight from out of the starry river and into Nie Tian.

It was also at that moment that all the ancient symbols that Nie Tian had briefly swept through suddenly began to become clear, as if they were now deeply engraved in his mind.

Furthermore, he felt like he had an epiphany. Not only did all the ancient symbols start to make perfect sense to him, he even realized how to attract and receive the starlight that was pouring towards him.

Under his guidance, the silver starlight converged into one light beam before it entered Nie Tian's mind through the top of his head.

Nie Tian silently examined himself and found that a tiny light dot had appeared in his soul and started to shine.

With the infusion of more and more starlight from the starry river, the light dot in his soul grew brighter and brighter.

Nie Tian's body shuddered. "A fragmentary star?! A fragmentary star has fallen into my soul?! Is this a part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation?"

Eyes glittering with the light of excitement, he was fairly certain that he had solved one of the profound mysteries of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

The Fragmentary Star Incantation was actually dedicated to tempering one's psychic power. To be exact, it was a soul cultivating incantation.

There were very few secret magics regarding cultivation of the soul in the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars!

Nie Tian found it hard to imagine that there was a mysterious soul-tempering incantation that could allow the starlight from the boundless starry river into one's soul and appear in the form of a fragmentary star. Therefore he cherished it like it a priceless treasure!

It was also at that moment Nie Tian finally understood why the Heaven Palace sect from the Realm of Mystic Heaven was so eager to obtain it.

He had witnessed how powerful Su Lin and her martial uncle were, and they were only the ones that he had seen.

He assumed that the Heaven Palace sect must have sent many more powerful experts into the Heaven Gate trial to assist Su Lin and her martial uncle in finishing their mission.

"Fragmentary Star Incantation! Soul cultivating magic!" Nie Tian couldn't suppress his excitement.

From his fight with Wu Ling, he had realized that even though he

possessed outstanding psychic power, he didn't know how to wield it, and thus couldn't turn it into actual battle prowess.

The moment he had finished his battle with Wu Ling, he had decided to go to his master as soon as the Heaven Gate trial was over and learn some psychic magics from him.

Never would he have thought that the psychic magic that he had longed for would present itself, now branded within the hexagram in his Heaven Gate pattern.

He believed that as long as he continued to build up his psychic power and put his heart to studying the incantation, he would be able to unveil all the mysteries of the Fragmentary Star Incantation and put it to good use.

More importantly, the Fragmentary Star Incantation was more about tempering one's soul than psychic power.

When he was strong enough, his psychic power would upgrade and become soul power. Only at that time would he be able to make the most out of the Fragmentary Star Incantation and display the true might of the incantation!

He tried his best to calm himself and pull himself out of his reverie. Following the instructions of the incomparably clear symbols that were now engraved in his mind, he continued to take in the starlight.

More and more starlight poured down from the heavens and converged onto the top of Nie Tian's head, and from there it flowed into his soul.

At the same time, he glanced around and noticed that he was the only one absorbing starlight from the starry river. Everyone in the other two areas was still fighting.

He realized that only when someone had gathered all the Heaven Sparks from their opponents in the area and completed that part of the incantation, would they be able to receive the instructions of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, and thus attract the falling starlight.

“I've got to make full use of this opportunity!”

With these thoughts, he felt increasingly lucky and concentrated on using the secret magic that he had just learned to allow as much starlight as possible into his soul.

He probed into his own soul and saw that, after a large amount of starlight had poured into it, the fragmentary star was rapidly growing brighter and larger.

Only seconds had passed and the originally grain-sized star had already grown to the size of a thumb.

Within the fragmentary star, Nie Tian could sense extremely strong psychic energy fluctuations. He had the feeling that the

psychic power within the small star was far more powerful and profound than all of the psychic power in his soul. Furthermore, he believed that there were still many secrets within it that he would need time to solve.

“The heavens must favor me!” he thought to himself.

Chapter 179: Three Fragmentary Stars

The starlight that was pouring down from the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace wasn't limitless.

It wasn't very long before the shiny, silver light stopped falling.

At that time, Nie Tian was surprised to discover that there were three fragmentary stars in his soul.

Within his soul, all three of them hung high in the sky, shining with bright light. Not only was the psychic power they contained incomparably pure and condensed, they also carried the profound might of stars.

The existence of the three fragmentary stars made Nie Tian's soul seem full of mysteries and even slightly resemble the vast starry river.

When the starlight stopped falling, Nie Tian gradually awoke from his cultivation.

At that time, his understandings of the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation was still limited to the method to attract starlight into his soul, and he was fairly certain that he would have to further explore its secrets in the future.

As soon as he snapped open his eyes, he felt enlivened; both his spiritual power and flesh power had fully recovered.

Furthermore, after the three fragmentary stars took form in his soul, his psychic power had also reached an unprecedentedly high level!

He immediately looked towards the Heaven stage area and found that the fight between the two was already over.

The losing party had been torn into pieces, scattered around on the floor, while his head was lying meters away from the rest of his body.

It was a horrible scene.

The winner, on the other hand, was sitting among the severed limbs, wreathed in a strong, bloody aura. Face pale, eyes narrowed, he was gathering the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth to gradually restore his strength.

“The fight is over...” Nie Tian immediately rose to his feet and sent a wisp of his psychic awareness into the ten floating energy balls around him.

Without the slightest hesitation, he dashed towards the river of seven-colored light, as he had been waiting for this moment.

At the same time, he used his psychic power to manipulate the ten energy balls to follow him and cross that river into the adjacent area.

The moment he stepped into the seven-colored light river, he seemed to set off some hidden restrictive spell of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

All of a sudden, numerous beams of bright light, along with an examining and judging aura, shot out of the light river and enveloped him in the blink of an eye.

It seemed that the hexagram within the Heaven Gate pattern on Nie Tian's hand had sensed the action of the restrictive spell, and immediately started to shine with dazzling starlight.

Almost simultaneously, the examining aura in the seven-colored light disappeared.

Nie Tian instantly felt a sense of relief and then steadily walked forward in the miraculous river that was filled with light and energy.

The ten energy balls, which he had condensed with the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, followed him into seven-colored light river.

Since the energy within those balls shared the same source as the energy in the light river, they weren't rejected and no examining aura flew anywhere near them.

One after another, all the energy balls slowly followed Nie Tian

across the seven-colored river.

Originally, the powerful expert sitting amongst his opponent's severed limbs didn't even notice Nie Tian, the only survivor from the Lesser Heaven stage area. Only when he sensed that someone had crossed the seven-colored light river did he look over and catch sight of Nie Tian.

Before that, he had focused all his attention on the Greater Heaven stage area, where he saw only two survivors: Su Lin's martial uncle and Tang Yang from the Realm of Dark Underworld.

At that time, their fight had reached a critical moment in which a winner was about to be born.

Knowing that he wouldn't be able to cross the restrictive river into the Lesser Heaven stage area even though he had already obtained the middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, he had long since given up the idea of snatching the first part of the incantation.

He knew that he would only be able to challenge the survivor of the Greater Heaven stage area and try his luck with obtaining the final part of the incantation with his Heaven stage strength.

Since he was familiar with the rules within the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, he had set his mind on the Greater Heaven stage expert from the Heaven Palace sect and completely ignored Nie Tian.

The final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation had become his sole focus, so he was very surprised with Nie Tian's arrival. As a matter of fact, he had expected that someone from the Lesser Heaven stage area might enter his area. However, he had expected that person to be Su Lin.

He was very clear about the Heaven Palace sect's scheme and was no stranger to Su Lin's fame. That was why he was taken aback when the youngster standing in front of him was Nie Tian, a young man he didn't know and had never even heard of.

A wisp of the man's psychic awareness swirled around Nie Tian and soon he drew a conclusion regarding his cultivation base. "Middle Lesser Heaven stage..."

A slight sneer appear at the corner of the man's mouth as he shook his head and thought to himself, "I can't believe Su Lin was defeated by this kid. She must have sustained serious injuries when she fought Wu Ling or Xuan Ke. Or Wu Ling and Xuan Ke teamed up to fight Su Lin, and all three of them suffered severe injuries from their fight, which created a good opportunity for this kid."

Since the experts in the Heaven stage area had started fighting before Nie Tian and the other three, the man didn't know how their fights went.

Furthermore, he never heard of Nie Tian, but he knew Su Lin, Wu Ling, and Xuan Ke rather well and knew that the three of them were all chosen ones from their respective realms.

Hence, he took it for granted that Nie Tian had swooped in at the perfect time, snatched the victory, and had then audaciously come to challenge him.

“Where are you from, kid?” he asked with an indifferent tone.

When he spoke, his eyes brimmed with greed and excitement.

“The Realm of Flame Heaven,” Nie Tian answered.

The man grinned while shaking his head. “The Realm of Flame Heaven?

“Actually, this is good! I can’t cross the seven-colored light river to loot the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation even if I want to, but now you’ve come to my door! Who would have expected this?

“Hahaha! It seems that today is my lucky day. It’s hard to say if I’ll be able to loot the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, but I can safely say that the first part will soon belong to me!”

With these words, he slowly rose to his feet.

“My name is Dong Baijie, and I’m from the Realm of a Hundred Battles.” With a smile on his face, the man took the initiative to

state his own name. “I wanna thank you in advance for bringing me the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation. With that in my hands, I only have one part to go.”

A strong fighting spirit rippled out from within Dong Baijie. At the same time, an aura full of brutality and killing intent shot violently into the heavens from the top of his head, in the form of a column of thick, gray smoke.

From within the thick smoke, not only did Nie Tian sense a strong psychic power, he also found the fluctuations of a special kind of spiritual power.

It seemed to be an aggregation of the man’s psychic power, spiritual power, and thirst for blood!

Since the Heaven stage area had just witnessed multiple brutal fights, scattered fighting spirits could be found in every corner of the bloody battlefield.

At that moment, all those fighting spirits madly converged and infused into the smoke column that shot out of the top of Dong Baijie’s head.

Nie Tian originally was convinced that Dong Baijie was in a state of complete exhaustion, like a oil lamp that had run out of oil.

However, his fighting spirit and battle prowess seemed to be soaring together with the column above his head!

Having stepped out of the river of seven-colored light, Nie Tian said nothing, and without wasting a second, he placed his palms opposite to each other in an attempt to form the chaotic magnetic field as soon as possible.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

It was also at that time the ten energy balls followed Nie Tian across the seven-colored light river and arrived by his side.

As he infused more and more of his psychic power, spiritual power, and flesh power into the magnetic field, it gradually expanded into his surroundings. Meanwhile, he quietly took the third talisman that his master had bestowed upon him out of his bracelet of holding.

He was prepared to unleash the power within his master's talisman at the first possible moment in case Dong Baijie planned to attack him with his psychic power.

After all, his biggest weakness was that he didn't know any psychic magic, and thus was quite vulnerable to psychic attacks.

Since he had successfully shielded off the attack of Wu Ling's evil psychic power with the talisman, he assumed that it would also protect him from Dong Baijie's psychic attack. Only by maintaining a clear mind and undisturbed soul would he have the chance to obtain the middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

“Give it to me!” Dong Baijie reached out his hand and asked Nie Tian to hand out the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation in an imposing manner.

Without giving Nie Tian the time to think, the gray, thick smoke column morphed into a giant gray wolf, and lunged towards Nie Tian.

“What are you waiting for!? Sever your own hand and get the hell out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace!”

Chapter 180: Dong Baijie

Accompanied by Dong Baijie's thunderous roar, the giant gray wolf swooped towards Nie Tian from over his head.

The wolf was condensed by Dong Baijie's psychic power and spiritual power. Not only was it very lifelike, it even seemed to have its own consciousness.

In Dong Baijie's eyes, as long as Nie Tian was decisive enough, he still had the time to cut off his Heaven Gate pattern bearing hand and get out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace alive, before the giant wolf got to him.

His cold eyes were fixed on Nie Tian as he waited to see what Nie Tian would choose; die fighting or retreat and live.

Upon seeing the giant gray wolf swooping towards him, Nie Tian's expression flickered as he wanted to immediately set off the spiritual talisman from Wu Ji to protect him from it.

As far as he knew, the talisman would form seven light shields around him, which would be suffice to shield off his enemy's psychic attack.

Just as he was about to stimulate the talisman, he suddenly sensed that something was different. He examined the chaotic magnetic field and found that three dots of starlight had appeared in it.

Each of them was minute, far smaller than the fragmentary stars in his soul.

However, he detected the aura of those fragmentary stars within them!

He immediately came to realize that the three starlight dots in the chaotic magnetic field originated from the three fragmentary stars in his soul.

As he thought about it now, he must have drawn some pure and advanced psychic power from the three fragmentary stars in his soul when he channeled his power to form the magnetic field.

The existence of the starlight dots made the magnetic field even more violent and chaotic.

Unprecedentedly strong energy fluctuations that seemed capable of distorting any psychic power that dared to enter were now surging about within the magnetic field.

WHOOSH!

At that moment, the giant gray wolf, which was still some distance away from Nie Tian, suddenly opened its mouth.

In the next second, a gray psychic power blast shot out of the

wolf's mouth and pierced towards Nie Tian's chaotic magnetic field with a speed that was many times faster than the wolf's.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

Before Nie Tian realized it, the blast wave had already entered the magnetic field. As soon as it did, the three starlight dots within it began to shine with dazzling light.

The twisting psychic fluctuations within the magnetic field turned the magnetic field into a giant meat grinder as it unceasingly twisted and ground up the invading psychic power.

Before long, Nie Tian saw the blast wave torn into pieces and reduced to small, shimmering gray dots, which continued to be distorted and dismantled by the power within the magnetic field and soon vanished into thin air.

"It worked! It held off his psychic attack!" Nie Tian's spirit was greatly roused, and his talisman-holding hand was now more steady than ever.

The surprising performance of the chaotic magnetic field made him less nervous, and he was no longer eager to use the last remaining talisman from his master. Instead, he commanded the ten spiritual energy balls to bombard the giant wolf without any hesitation.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

One by one, numerous balls filled with semi-liquidized spiritual energy rammed hard into the wolf before exploding and sputtering millions of bright sparks into the surroundings.

The area between him and Dong Baijie was soon filled with clashing light and energy. The giant gray wolf let out mad howls as it waved its claws towards the row of energy balls.

Gradually, the giant wolf was inundated by the fragmentary light sparks that shot out of the energy balls, and its enormous frame shrunk at a speed that was visible to the naked eye.

At the same time, the originally strong fluctuations of psychic power and spiritual power were rapidly weakening.

Dong Baijie's ill-looking face grew even paler. His face twitched as his expression started to appear somewhat sinister and distorted. "What?! With his Lesser Heaven stage strength, he actually managed to withstand my Heavenly Wolf's attack!"

Dong Baijie found it hard to believe. As a matter of fact, he had sensed that something was wrong when he saw the wolf's psychic power blast wave eliminated as soon as it entered the area around Nie Tian.

He became increasingly shocked and uneasy when he saw the numerous energy balls wearing down the power of his Heavenly Wolf.

With his psychic power, he examined the mysterious energy balls and realized that they weren't Nie Tian's spiritual tools. The tiny sparks that had shot out of them were actually a concretion of the rich spiritual energy in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

He found it incredible that Nie Tian had managed to refine and condense the spiritual energy in the air to the point where it became semi-liquid.

After a moment of shock, he forced himself to calm down. When he looked at Nie Tian again, his eyes were filled with seriousness.

FIZZ! FIZZ! FIZZ!

One energy ball after another exploded and sent out countless tiny sparks, which eventually drowned and destroyed the giant, gray wolf.

Seeing that the area between Nie Tian and himself was filled with sputtering sparks, even the Heaven stage Dong Baijie was hesitant to step into that area as he didn't want to waste his power dealing with it.

Therefore, he blurred into action and flashed towards Nie Tian like a zigzag bolt of lightning, easily evading the area between them.

Dong Baijie originally didn't have anything in his hand, but as he

approached, Nie Tian discovered that he had already drawn out a long spear.

The long spear was engraved with detailed patterns that looked like some sort of mysterious spell formation or seal.

The iron-gray spear suddenly started to thrum with a heaven-shaking, earth-shattering fighting spirit before it turned into a beam of light and disappeared from in front of Dong Baijie.

In the next moment, it appeared inside of Nie Tian's magnetic field, catching him completely off guard, as if the spear had ignored space and teleported directly in front of his face.

BOOM!

The moment the spear appeared in the chaotic magnetic field, it unleashed an even fiercer fighting spirit.

In the next moment, pale-gray light blossomed out of the long spear, turning it into a long, luminous tube, continuously releasing light and energy.

On the other hand, the twisting power within the magnetic field was like thousands of hands that grabbed onto each and every ray of the light and doing their utmost to bend them.

However, the ever-victorious magnetic field failed to stop the piercing, sharp light from the long spear, given everything had

happened so fast.

PUFF!

A ray of pale-gray light pierced into Nie Tian's right arm.

A messy hole immediately appeared in that arm and blood came spraying out!

Fortunately, the ray of light missed his bones. Otherwise, they would have instantly broken into pieces.

Nie Tian was flabbergasted.

He had encountered Greater Heaven stage experts before, opponents even more powerful than Dong Baijie. However, they had either attacked him with psychic power or lost control of themselves and fallen into the chaotic magnetic field.

They all had their mind distorted by the magnetic field when they sent their psychic power into it or entered it themselves.

Dong Baijie was different. He seemed to have discovered the secrets of the magnetic field through his previous attack with the giant wolf.

That was the reason why he didn't enter or send his psychic awareness, but rather tested the water with his powerful spiritual

tool.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

At that time, even more light rays shot out of the long spear. Nie Tian, who had suffered greatly from merely one light ray, had no choice but to shift his position as quickly as he could to dodge the light.

PUFF! PUFF! PUFF!

Even still, some of the light rays found his legs and abdomen, one after another. Fortunately, none of the wounds were fatal.

He could only try his best to prevent the light from piercing into his vital parts, since he obviously wouldn't possibly be able to dodge all the light rays.

Standing about ten meters away from him, Dong Baijie from the Realm of a Hundred Battles looked on as the long spear raged within Nie Tian's magnetic field, the expression in his eyes somewhat grim.

“He managed to survive till now with his middle Lesser Heaven stage cultivation base. It seems that it was no coincidence that he collected the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation from Su Lin, Xuan Ke, and Wu Ling's hands.” Nie Tian's outstanding performance came as a great shock to Dong Baijie, the only survivor of the brutal fights within the Heaven stage area.

He inwardly acknowledged Nie Tian's strength.

Chapter 181: You Win!

Enveloped by his magnetic field, Nie Tian continued to dodge the piercing light as quickly as he could. Even still, more and more wounds appeared on his body.

Dong Baijie's caution made him suffer a great deal and realize that even though his chaotic magnetic field had helped him win during his previous fights, it wasn't invincible.

Its influence on spiritual tools was far weaker than fleshy bodies and psychic power.

It had effortlessly eliminated the psychic power blast wave shot out of the giant wolf's mouth, keeping Nie Tian unscathed, which convinced him that the magnetic field would be able to influence and restrain the Heaven stage Dong Baijie to a great extent, as long as he dared to enter!

Unfortunately, Dong Baijie was too smart to do that. The moment he sensed the bizarre nature of the chaotic magnetic field, he intentionally evaded it and put a sizable distance between it and himself.

He only used his long, iron-gray spear to unleash countless light rays that resembled sharp arrows to attack Nie Tian, who was hiding within the strange magnetic field.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

At that moment, the long spear was still emanating pale-gray, incomparably sharp light rays, which would cut into any part of Nie Tian's flesh upon contact.

Even though the twisting power was doing it utmost to avert the light from the long spear, it was only influencing a small portion of the light.

"This won't work." Nie Tian realized that if this went on and he couldn't find a way to restrain the long spear, he would sustain even more injuries and eventually lose the fight.

Dong Baijie, on the other hand, was standing ten meters away, staring at him, as if he was waiting for the time when he could no longer put up a fight.

SHEW!

With a fierce look on his face, Nie Tian suddenly took out his last Ice Blast Pearl and threw it towards Dong Baijie.

Since Dong Baijie was standing quite close to him, the moment the Ice Blast Pearl left Nie Tian's hand, he detected the terrifying frost power it contained.

He wanted to jump backwards at the first possible moment. However, because he was standing too close to Nie Tian, he failed to get out of the range of the Ice Blast Pearl before it violently

exploded!

CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

Countless ice shards and rays of icy light that were as deadly as sharp darts shot out of the fist-size Ice Blast Pearl and spread out in every direction.

In a split second, all the ice shards and icy light started rotating at a fast speed, forming a devastating ice storm.

Dong Baijie, who was still fleeing at the fastest speed possible, was immediately engulfed.

With a raging fighting spirit, he let out heaven-shaking roars as he once again used his secret magic to condense his power into a giant, gray wolf over his head.

Afterwards, he staggered, as if he even found it hard to maintain a steady foothold.

As a matter of fact, after a series of brutal fights with the Heaven stage experts, he only had about ten percent of his strength left in him. Even though he had spent some time to recuperate when Nie Tian crossed the light river, he had no more than twenty percent of his strength back at that time.

In order to kill Nie Tian as quickly as possible, he had condensed a giant wolf, which ended up being eliminated by Nie Tian's

energy balls.

Then he had infused massive amounts of his power into the long spear that he had sent into the chaotic magnetic field. Furthermore, he was actually consuming his strength as the spear continued to unleash violent light rays.

This time, in order to protect himself from the ice storm, he had to condense another giant wolf.

By doing this, he had actually pushed his strength to the limit!

ROOOOOOAR!

The giant, gray wolf roared as it strove to block the power of the ice storm with its enormous body.

However, the Ice Blast Pearl that Wu Ji had bestowed upon Nie Tian was a weapon that was meant to kill.

Therefore, the ice storm that it created was by no means something that the giant wolf could withstand.

Under the ruthless attacks of the countless ice shards and icy light rays, the giant, howling wolf's body shrunk rapidly.

In the meantime, Dong Baijie's face was extremely grim. Seeing the wolf shrinking in size, he also realized that he was in an

unfavorable situation. He hastily took out a few low-ranked spiritual tools and tried to hold off the ice storm with them.

A banner embroidered with an image of an outsider war god flew out of his bracelet of holding.

As soon as it appeared, a war god of an unknown race floated out of it and started to contend with the violent ice storm.

However, it was only seconds before the war god with an outsider's appearance was ripped into pieces.

“Dammit! It’s not useful.”

Dong Baijie muttered to himself as he took out a green shield, as if he didn’t pity the spiritual tool that he had just lost at all.

The moment the shield appeared, it blossomed with bright light and turned into a dark-green light shield, enveloping the constantly shrinking gray wolf.

However, it also only took about ten seconds for the ice storm to tear the newly-formed protective shield into shreds.

After that, Dong Baijie took out a few more different spiritual tools from his bracelet of holding and used them one by one to contend with the ravaging ice storm.

Each and every one of them had been looted from the Lesser Heaven stage trial takers after he entered the Heaven Gate trial.

Therefore, most of them were of rather low ranks and had limited power. More importantly, none of them agreed with his cultivation attribute, and thus he couldn't put them to full use.

On the other hand, the ice storm was created by the Ice Blast Pearl, a fine work of Wu Ji, a Profound realm expert. It was originally meant for Greater Heaven stage experts or the young, chosen ones from the other realms.

It was expected that none of those low-ranked spiritual tools could withstand the ravaging, terrifying power unleashed by the Ice Blast Pearl, and broke one by one.

Enveloped by the chaotic magnetic field, Nie Tian had been observing Dong Baijie the whole time as he shifted his position to avoid the light. "He's barely hanging on!"

He realized that Dong Baijie, who was now barely protected by the shrinking wolf, already couldn't even maintain a fast foothold, which meant that he was on the verge of breaking down, like a oil lamp that was running out of its oil.

"I'd better kill him while he's weak!" Nie Tian's spirit was greatly lifted.

He, who had been cautious and maintained a distance away from

Dong Baijie, suddenly started moving towards him.

The magnetic field moved with him as he strode forward.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The iron-gray spear that had been unleashing piercing light remained floating in place when Nie Tian moved away from his original place.

Unconstrained by the chaotic magnetic field, the light that the long spear radiated grew increasingly dazzling.

It was just that since Nie Tian was no longer in the vicinity, it could no longer hurt him.

At that moment, Dong Baijie sensed Nie Tian's movements and refocused on controlling the long spear. "Go!"

As a result, the spear immediately relocated Nie Tian, pierced into the magnetic field, and started shooting out countless pale-gray light rays to attack him.

PUFF!

Moments later, another bloody hole was pierced open on the side of Nie Tian's waist. He gave a muffled groan under the great pain, and sped up as he charged towards Dong Baijie.

At that moment, the might of the Ice Blast Pearl was already on the decline.

Apparently, the ice storm that the Ice Blast Pearl had created was gradually being worn down by the gray wolf and the series of spiritual tools that Dong Baijie had brought out.

As he approached Dong Baijie, he knew very well that the ice storm would lose effect before long.

“You are courting death?!” Rage appeared in Dong Baijie’s eyes as he saw Nie Tian dashing towards him.

At that moment, another intense burst of fighting spirit rose in his heart.

He infused almost all of his remaining psychic power and spiritual power into that long spear of his.

After all, that spear was the most powerful and effective tool at his disposal. After receiving more power, the long spear immediately gained a violent surge in its might.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

Dozens of thick, pale-gray light beams shot out of it, making it almost impossible for Nie Tian to evade them.

“I’ve prepared for this!” Nie Tian let out a cold harrumph and stimulated the third talisman that his master had bestowed upon him. As soon as he did, seven layers of jade-like light shields were formed around him.

Dong Baijie’s attack, which he had summoned almost all his strength to launch, aimed to kill Nie Tian. However, the several dozen light beams were all blocked by the light shields, none of them making it through.

Meanwhile, only two of the seven light shields broke after withstanding the attack of the piercing light.

PUFF!

Face distorted and sinister, Dong Baijie coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Reluctant to give up, he summoned every last bit of his power and potential, and commanded the long spear to shoot out a dozen more light beams, but they also ended up being blocked by the light shield around Nie Tian.

As the result of Dong Baijie’s final, all-out attack, two of the five remaining light shields were broken.

At that time, Dong Baijie had truly drained all his power. He had even advanced his power at the price of his fleshy body, in order to

launch the attack that he deemed fatal.

However, as it turned out, Nie Tian didn't die from it.

After seeing that Nie Tian was still stepping steadily towards him even though he was covered in blood, mixed expressions flashed across Dong Baijie's face as he said, "You win!"

With a vigorous motion of his hand, he torn a piece of skin and flesh off of his hand back, along with the Heaven Gate pattern on it.

"I quit! Tell me your name, kid!" Speaking out loudly, Dong Baijie tossed the Heaven Gate pattern to Nie Tian.

At the same time, his long, gray spear flew out of the chaotic magnetic field and found Dong Baijie's hand with perfect precision.

"My name is Nie Tian, and I'm from the Realm of Flame Heaven."

"Nie Tian! Okay!" A faint hint of admiration could be seen in his angry eyes as he looked deeply at Nie Tian. "When you have comprehended the first and middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, come and find me in the Realm of a Hundred Battles. My name can be considered well known in the Realm of a Hundred Battles. You can ask people for the address of my residence."

As soon as he uttered these words, he was sucked out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace. Nie Tian didn't even get a chance to respond.

Chapter 182

Nie Tian was just about to say something when he found that Dong Baijie had already been dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace by a mysterious force and was nowhere to be seen.

SHEW!

By that time, the piece of flesh that carried Dong Baijie's Heaven Gate pattern had reached Nie Tian's side and the hexagram inside of it immediately flew into the back of his hand.

After receiving the hexagram, Nie Tian briefly examined it with his psychic power and saw that there were also numerous ancient symbols floating within it, just like the first part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

All the ancient symbols were aligned in a perfect order, making it very easy and pleasant to read.

“Middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation!” Nie Tian's expression flickered. A hint of smile appeared at the corner of his mouth, and he no longer felt the pain from the numerous wounds covering his body.

In order to obtain the first and middle part of the incantation, he had used up all of the three life-saving talismans and three Ice Blast Pearls that his master had given him.

However, he had a feeling in his heart that compared to the incantation, all those were nothing.

Due to Dong Baijie's voluntary withdrawal, the Heaven stage area returned to peace.

Nie Tian dropped to the ground, took out several pieces of spirit beast meat from his bracelet of holding and started munching in silence.

While eating, the close to a dozen piercing wounds on his body still had blood flowing out of them.

To prevent himself from bleeding out and dying, he had to treat the wounds and stop the bleeding as quickly as possible.

He tried to draw spiritual power from his dantian's spiritual sea and use it to heal his wounds.

All of a sudden, he sensed that wisps of wood power that contained a thriving life aura swirled out of the vortex of wood power in his spiritual sea.

Not only that, unusually strong heartbeats echoed out from within his chest, as a valiant life force was suddenly born within his heart.

The vigorous wood power and the life force infused into Nie Tian's blood and flesh at the same time.

The two kinds of power that were somewhat similar to each other flowed rapidly within his blood vessels and meridians, before they soon converged on the bloody holes.

In the next moment, all the puncture wounds stopped bleeding.

“What!?” Flabbergasted, he looked down at a bloody hole on his arm, and saw that not only had it stopped bleeding, but there were even muscle fibers wiggling inside of the wound.

Like a spacial rift that was about to close up, the messy wounds were healing and shrinking at a slow speed.

As a matter of fact, since Nie Tian could see it with his eyes, the healing process was actually very fast.

For commoners, if their flesh had been punctured, it would usually take weeks or even months to heal the wound.

However, with the help of the wood power from his spiritual sea and the life force that originated from his heart, his wounds were healing at a speed that was many times faster than a normal person's rate.

“Those two kinds of power have sped up the healing of my wounds!” Nie Tian's eyes lit up and his face was filled with

excitement as he came to realize that his bloodline power, which wasn't fully awakened yet, was much more mysterious and powerful than he had expected!

Before long, he could no longer sense any pain from the wounds on his limbs and abdomen.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

It was at that moment that more starlight streamed out of the vast and boundless starry river in the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

Dong Baijie's withdrawal and the fact that he had left the middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation to Nie Tian seemed to have triggered a certain restrictive spell of the palace.

Upon seeing more starlight falling out of the heavens, Nie Tian instantly grew excited, as he knew that he could channel it into his soul, along with the mysterious power it carried.

Without any hesitation, he assumed the lotus position and used the secret magic that he had learned to attract the falling starlight.

Soon, countless rays of starlight converged on him and streamed through the top of his head into his soul.

A fourth fragmentary star gradually took shape within his soul.

At that moment, Tang Yang's voice rang out from within the Greater Heaven stage area. "You win, Ning Yang!" Face covered in blood, he cut the Heaven Gate pattern off of the back of his hand.

Soon after he cast the piece of flesh that carried his Heaven Gate pattern to the man he called Ning Yang, he was seized by a mysterious force and dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

As a result, Ning Yang, Su Lin's martial uncle, was now the only one standing in the Greater Heaven stage area.

After Tang Yang's Heaven Gate pattern merged with his own, a hexagram imprinting gradually took shape in his Heaven Gate pattern, which stored the final part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

Apparently, Ning Yang had also gone through a bloodbath to finally obtain the complete final part. Therefore, he looked somewhat weary at that moment.

Suddenly, he turned his head and caught sight of Nie Tian.

"It's not Su Lin!!" After going blank for a moment, he frowned and carefully looked Nie Tian up and down.

"It's nor Dong Baijie, Wu Ling, or Xuan Ke..." Ning Yang was increasingly confused.

After all, he had assumed that Su Lin would be the one to obtain the first part of the incantation. He had never doubted that.

Although he wasn't sure that Su Lin would be able to loot the middle part of the incantation from Dong Baijie, who he had assumed to be the winner of the Heave stage area, he had never expected that any other Lesser Heaven stage youngster had what it took to snatch the first part from Su Lin's hands.

However, looking at the unfamiliar young man sitting by himself in the Heaven stage area while no one could be seen in the Lesser Heaven stage, he had to accept the fact that he had obtained the first and middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

He still couldn't figure out how Nie Tian had achieved it.

However, caught in confusion and frustration, he suddenly discovered the starlight that had been pouring out of the starry river above his head.

He, who was currently in a bad shape, sat down on the ground.

He only briefly scanned the symbols within the hexagram with his psychic awareness before he understood the method to attract the starlight.

Originally, all the starlight that fell out of the ceiling answered Nie Tian's call and flowed towards him.

However, since Ning Yang started casting the newly-obtained spell, two thirds of the starlight started converging onto him.

The drop in the amount of starlight Nie Tian received immediately drew his attention. His eyes snapped open and he looked over at the distant Ning Yang. His eyebrows furrowed.

From the look of it, Ning Yang, who had forced Tang Yang to withdraw from the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, was currently in a better condition than Dong Baijie back when he had finished his fights.

Moreover, Ning Yang's cultivation base was at the peak of the Greater Heaven stage!

On the other hand, Nie Tian had already used up all the life-saving talismans and Ice Blast Pearls.

With a cultivation base so significantly inferior, as audacious as he had been, Nie Tian didn't dare go on a suicide mission by crossing the seven-colored river after seeing that Ning Yang's condition wasn't very bad.

He was fairly certain that if he did cross the river, the chances of the Heaven Palace sect from the Realm of Mystic Heaven eventually collecting all three parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation were quite high.

With those thoughts in mind, he no longer looked at Ning Yang, but rather focused on attracting the starlight towards him.

An unknown period of time passed.

By the time that another fragmentary star was formed in his soul and started to shine brightly, he could no longer feel the existence of more starlight.

He looked up and saw that the starry river was still profound and boundless.

It was just that no more starlight fell out of it.

He didn't know why, but he had a feeling that a mysterious connection had been formed between the vast starry river and the four fragmentary stars in his soul.

Chapter 183: Seven Fragmentary Stars!

Four fragmentary stars were shining with bright light within Nie Tian's soul.

Since no more starlight was streaming out of the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, Nie Tian could receive no more power.

He gradually woke up from his cultivation of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

Separated by a seven-colored light river, he looked at Ning Yang from the Heaven Palace sect and found that he was looking right back at him.

Due to the separation of the seven-colored light river, the two of them didn't say anything, but only looked each other in the eye.

After a short while, Nie Tian stopped looking at Ning Yang, but rather started cultivating again with the incomparably pure spiritual Qi of heaven and earth in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

As one energy ball after another was created, Nie Tian absorbed the spiritual energy and the special type of energy within them to restore his spiritual power and psychic power at the same time.

After an unknown period of time, his spiritual sea in his dantian

brimmed with spiritual power.

His psychic power was also replenished to its peak state after being nourished by the special energy for some time.

Moreover, he sensed that a mysterious change had taken place in his soul due to the existence of the four fragmentary stars.

It was just that since he hadn't had the time to study the first and middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation, and so he didn't know the true profundity of those four fragmentary stars yet.

By that time, the piercing injuries that Dong Baijie had inflicted on him had also healed to a great extent. They even formed scabs in such a short time.

He could no longer sense any pain from the wounds, and he had faith that it wouldn't be long before all the wounds were completely healed.

Only then did he rise to his feet and begin strolling around the Heaven stage area to see if he could find something useful.

After all, those who had been killed by Dong Baijie might have some valuable items with them.

However, after a thorough search, he didn't find any valuable spiritual tools on the mangled bodies.

He immediately realized that Dong Baijie must have long since looted their bracelets of holding when he had killed them.

Nie Tian continued to walk about within the Heaven stage area, hoping to run into some windfall.

Ning Yang, who was in the adjacent area, saw Nie Tian's behavior. With a frown, he instantly reached a conclusion that Nie Tian wasn't high-born. Otherwise, he would never seek to loot items from those dead Heaven stage experts.

Obviously, if Su Lin had been the last person standing in the Heaven stage area, she would not have wasted any of her time on searching for items. All of her energy would be concentrated on cultivation.

After all, it was almost impossible to find a place more suitable for Qi warriors to cultivate in than the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

Ning Yang was determined to find out about Nie Tian's identity the first moment he left the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

He assumed that, considering the Heaven Palace sect's power, it wouldn't be difficult to find Nie Tian and snatch the first and middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation.

With these thoughts, he stopped looking at Nie Tian. Instead, he

started recuperating with the especially rich spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth.

Before long, Nie Tian, who failed to find anything, dropped the idea of looting items and also began taking in the pure spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth to temper his spiritual sea.

At that time, his spiritual sea was already brimming with spiritual power. Vortexes of different types of power were also rotating non-stop.

Two vortexes of spiritual power, one vortex of flame power, and one vortex of wood power were all rotating at a high speed within the misty, white spiritual sea.

His spiritual sea, which was twice the size it had been when he was in the early Lesser Heaven stage, was refining the spiritual power within it round after round.

However, no matter how fast the four vortexes rotated, it seemed that they could no longer refine more spiritual energy into the spiritual sea.

At that moment, Nie Tian had the feeling that he had reached another bottleneck.

He immediately realized that as long as he could make another step forward, he would be able to break through from the middle Lesser Heaven stage into the late Lesser Heaven stage!

Bearing that thought in mind, he wasn't in a hurry to upgrade his spiritual sea. Instead, he calmed himself and started recollecting the details of the numerous dangerous fights he had survived since he had entered the Heaven Gate.

As he did, numerous scenes of those fights flashed across in his eyes; the precise and measured attack techniques of the Greater Heaven stage experts, the oppressing sensation Tang Yang had forced on him, Wu Ling's evil psychic power, Su Lin's mind games, Xuan Ke's secret help, and the twists and turns in his fight against Dong Baijie...

He sorted through all those battle scenes in his heart and recollected all the enlightenment and lessons that he had come to in those fights.

He realized that the Heaven Gate trial was much more dangerous and complicated than the Green Illusion dimension trial.

Among the numerous things he had learned from this trial, he learned how powerful the young chosen ones from the other realms could be and that there were complicated relations between the numerous forces in the Domain of the Falling Stars...

After a while, he stopped thinking about the experience he had gained, but rather concentrated his attention on himself.

With Wu Ji's former instruction in mind, he started to meticulously ponder the profundity of the spiritual power, psychic

power, and flesh power.

Perhaps it was because of the existence the seven-colored light river, or the fact that he was in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, but he was able to maintain a very clear mind when he pondered the profound mysteries of the different types of power.

He seemed to be suddenly enlightened when he reached the points that he found deep and hard to understand.

Just as he felt that he was about to make another breakthrough and step into the late Lesser Heaven stage, more starlight started streaming down from the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace again.

Without any hesitation, he averted his focus from understanding of the different types of powers to attracting the starlight.

The new round of starlight fell from the starry river and was divided and absorbed by him and Ning Yang.

Soon, another fragmentary star took shape in Nie Tian's soul when the starlight stopped. He once again submerged himself in self-tempering and enlightenment.

Then awhile later, more starlight poured out of the ceiling of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace again...

The process repeated several times.

By the time a seventh fragmentary star took shape in Nie Tian's soul, the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace suddenly started trembling.

The two seven-colored light rivers that had been separating the areas rose up into the air, before they flew towards Nie Tian and Ning Yang respectively, like two rainbows.

As soon as they infused into Nie Tian and Ning Yang's bodies, they seemed to turn into two seven-colored snakes that slithered into their spiritual seas.

It was when Nie Tian discovered that a seven-colored light river, which was hundreds of times smaller than the actual one, appeared within his soul that he was suddenly seized by a force and dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

As he was dragged downwards, he saw the magnificent palace gradually rising before flying into the depths of the boundless starry river.

While plummeting uncontrollably downwards, Nie Tian caught sight of Ning Yang and saw that he seemed to be attempting to approach him.

However, no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get an inch closer to Nie Tian.

It appeared that even though the two of them had left the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, a mysterious force was preventing them from approaching each other.

Perhaps it was a law and balance created by the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

It was as if according to the law, it was deemed unfair to place Nie Tian and Ning Yang, two cultivators with cultivation bases so different, together.

It was because of the mysterious force that as Nie Tian and Ning Yang plummeted downwards like falling stars, they grew further and further apart.

Nie Tian had a vague feeling that the place where he was going to land was going to be the dilapidated city that he had come from.

Chapter 184: Survivor

Back in the location Nie Tian had departed from...

The floating, dilapidated city had long since landed on the meteor surface, and there was no longer seven-colored light or mysterious energy fluctuations emanating out of it.

However, a number of bizarre-looking buildings had appeared within it; some of them were the shape of awls and others were the shape of columns.

There were also a few buildings that people could immediately tell were outsiders' residences, each of which looked like enormous trees that stretched up into the sky.

In the center of the city, numerous powerful experts from the Realm of Flame Heaven were gathered by the side of a dilapidated, ancient teleportation portal.

After Miao Chen and Tang Yang had left the city, all the other foreign cultivators, who had entered the Heaven Gate trial via the Realm of Flame Heaven and failed to make their escapes, had been killed.

All the young disciples of the seven sects, who had been in hiding, had answered their seniors summons and gathered to this place.

Among the people present were Jiang Lingzhu and Li Fan from the Cloudsoaring sect, Feng Luo and Yu Tong from the Blood sect, An Shiyi from the Spiritual Treasure sect, Zheng Bin from the Mystic Mist sect, Hong Can from the Hell sect, Zou Yi from the Ghost sect, and Guan Qiu from the Grayvale sect.

Originally, no less than eighty people from the seven sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven had participated in the trial. However, only about ten of them had managed to survive up to this point.

All the other survivors had learned about what had happened through Feng Luo and Li Fan after their arrival.

According to Feng Luo's description, they learned that Nie Tian was the first to enter the city and be transported away.

He had seen it perfectly clearly when Nie Tian was enveloped in a bubble and had shot up from the center of the city into the vast starry river.

Soon after him, Miao Chen and Tang Yang also flew up into the depths of the starry river.

Since Li Fan had a special timing device, he told Jiang Lingzhu and An Shiyi, who seemed quite concerned about Nie Tian, that Nie Tian had been gone for three months.

In the past three months, they hadn't been able to find any trace of him.

According to Li Fan's estimation, Nie Tian was probably already dead.

After all, no matter where Nie Tian had gone to, Tang Yang and Miao Chen had gone there too.

Both of them were in the Greater Heaven stage, and Tang Yang was even more formidable and deadly.

As a matter of fact, if Tang Yang and Miao Chen hadn't left the city, the trial takers from the seven sects probably wouldn't have had the chance to finish off the other foreign cultivators.

As far as they were concerned, Nie Tian couldn't possibly handle either Tang Yang or Miao Chen.

The chances were that as soon as the three of them had arrived at their destination, Tang Yang and Miao Chen had immediately made their move and slaughtered Nie Tian.

It had been almost six months since the Heaven Gate trial had started. Some of the weak disciples from the seven sects had been buried in the numerous scattered meteors, while others had been hiding in distant corners and only came out to this place after receiving their seniors' summons. Some of them actually ran into some mysterious things on those distant meteors.

Now, they were all gathered around the teleportation portal in

the dilapidated city, as they all assumed that it was their way out of the Heaven Gate dimension.

For the past month, after they had eliminated all the remaining foreign cultivators in the region, they had spread out to search for interesting things.

However, they found nothing after searching through the nearly one thousand meteors in the vicinity.

Standing on a meteor that was as far as they could go, they saw another vast expanse of void filled with countless meteors.

However, that meteor region was separated from theirs by a boundless, starry river, and there were no stone bridges between the two.

After a moment of thinking, they came to realize that that meteor region was probably one of the two other “arenas” for the Qi warriors who had entered through the other two Heaven Gates.

They were aware that the other two Heaven Gates had opened in the Realm of Mystic Heaven and the Realm of a Thousand Devastations, and both of those realms were far stronger than theirs, especially the Realm of Mystic Heaven, which was ranked first among the nine realms of the Domain of the Falling Stars.

Powerful experts who had managed to obtain keys and eventually enter the Heaven Gate trial from there must be very strong and

deadly.

It was lucky for cultivators from the Realm of Flame Heaven that there was an unbridgeable, starry river between the two meteor regions.

If there had been a long bridge connecting the two regions, they would never have had the audacity to cross that bridge and provoke those people from the Realm of Mystic Heaven and the Realm of a Thousand Devastations, in which case they might draw fire upon themselves.

“That Nie Tian kid is probably dead. I know that you have certain feelings for him, but try not to be too sad about it.”

Qiu Heng, a middle Greater Heaven stage Qi warrior from the Spiritual Treasure sect, frowned and said softly to An Shiyi, “You’ve made significant progress in your cultivation in this Heaven Gate trial. You should consider yourself lucky. From what I can tell, with the enlightenment you’ve received here, you’ll be able to step into the Greater Heaven stage before long.

“When you do that, your status in the sect will rise again, and the mistakes you made in the Green Illusion dimension trial will also be written off. I doubt that the sectmaster will mention it again.

“The An clan and your sister An Ying will be proud of you, and more importantly, benefit from your achievement.

“Burdening yourself with Nie Tian’s death won’t do you any good, will it?”

Qiu Heng knew a thing or two about space traveling magics, and he had visited Black Cloud City because of the appearance of the spacial rifts.

According to seniority, he was An Shiyi’s martial uncle, and he had been treating her well over the years.

However, he had vanished when he learned that Gan Kang, whose status was even higher in the sect, had set his mind on An Shiyi and had been doing everything he could to force her to marry him.

He was aware that he couldn’t afford to upset Gan Kang and make him an enemy just for An Shiyi.

However, when he learned later that Gan Kang had attempted to abandon the Spiritual Treasure sect, he surfaced again and started showing his concern for An Shiyi.

Then, when he realized that An Shiyi had also obtained a Heaven Gate key in the wasteland outside of Black Cloud City, he grew increasingly warm towards her.

“He’s not dead. I have faith in him,” An Shiyi said with a cold tone, looking askance at him with loathing flickering in her eyes.

She knew perfectly clearly that he and Gan Kang were the same, as they were both after her beauty.

Even though Qiu Heng had never said anything, she was smart enough to see what he was thinking.

After all, when the Green Illusion dimension trial mishap had happened, she was degraded by the sectmaster and harassed by Gan Kang and the other old, licentious elders while he was nowhere to be found.

The reason was none other than that he was afraid of retaliation from Gan Kang and the others.

On the other hand, ever since Nie Tian had gone to the Spiritual Treasure sect, he had always been there for her every time she had run into a crisis.

In order to protect her, not only did Nie Tian make enemies with Gan Kang, but he even turned his back on the Spiritfount Pill, which was of great importance to him.

Furthermore, Nie Tian had gone out of his way several times to help her, and he even ended up putting himself and his companions in danger because of that.

Compared to Nie Tian, Qiu Heng and his words meant nothing to her.

She tried to ignore him when he said those things about Nie Tian and expressed his pretentious concerns. She actually had to hold herself back, because otherwise, she would have lashed out at him already.

Qiu Heng put on a false smile as he said, “Well... please don’t think being Wu Ji’s disciple makes him invincible. Wu Ji might be a good mentor, but he made a huge mistake sending Nie Tian to the Heaven Gate trial. Letting him participate in the trial with his Lesser Heaven cultivation base... either Wu Ji is already a dotard, or Nie Tian is blindly brave.”

“Qiu Heng! Who are you talking about?!” Li Fan’s cold snort rang out not very far away.

Even Feng Luo shot a cold look at Qiu Heng and said, “Will you shut up?”

Zheng Bin glared at him and muttered in a disdainful tone, “What a clown.”

Hong Can from the Hell sect, Zou Yi from the Ghost sect, and Guan Qiu from the Grayvale sect also let out cold harrumphs as they cast their unpleasant gazes towards Qiu Heng.

Qiu Heng sensed the burning gazes and soon realized that everyone was looking at him with disgusted looks on their faces, so he instantly stopped talking.

He had no idea why they all seemed unpleasant upon hearing his comments.

Of course, he didn't know that Feng Luo, Hong Can, Zou Yi, and Guan Qiu had all fought side by side with Nie Tian once, and they had all come to admire Nie Tian, even though he was only in the Lesser Heaven stage.

Hong Can from the Hell sect said with an unpleasant tone, "Although Nie Tian's cultivation base isn't impressive, he helped us kill three foreign Greater Heaven stage experts! Who are you to say those things? How many foreign Greater Heaven stage experts did you kill? What makes you think you're better than him?"

"I bet if that kid had the same cultivation base as you, he'd be able to finish you with one strike," Feng Luo said coldly.

"Umm..." Targeted by all those people, Qiu Heng's face was filled with embarrassment.

He immediately grew timid and didn't dare to say another word, and the way An Shiyi looked at him grew increasingly disdainful.

At that very moment, a cluster of seven-colored light appeared in the sky above the dilapidated city, and a figure gradually grew clearer within the bright light.

"It's Nie Tian!"

Chapter 185

Gathered around the ancient teleportation portal, every survivor from the Realm of Flame Heaven looked up into the sky with fascinated expressions on their faces.

Before long, Nie Tian's figure grew clear inside of a bubble of seven-colored light as it gradually descended.

While everyone was looking up at him, Nie Tian looked down at them, and a surprised look could be seen in his eyes.

He had expected Tang Yang from the Realm of Dark Underworld to be there after being dragged out of the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

However, after a careful examination, he didn't find Tang Yang among the crowd, nor any other foreign Qi warriors.

Upon seeing Li Fan, Jiang Lingzhu, An Shiyi, and Zheng Bin, he felt secretly relieved and surprised.

Jiang Lingzhu and An Shiyi waved at Nie Tian from below as he approached the city, their faces filled with elation. "Nie Tian!"

"I can't believe this guy is still alive!" Yu Tong muttered with a cold face, sighing over Nie Tian's unbelievably good fortune.

The seven-colored light bubble carried Nie Tian right towards the teleportation portal where everyone was gathered around.

WHOOSH!

When he landed on the teleportation portal, the seven-colored light that had been enveloping him the entire time melted down and merged with the portal like water.

Originally, the dilapidated teleportation portal had looked dark and lifeless. Numerous fissures could be seen on the stones that formed the portal. Even the ancient pattern that had been engraved on it seemed incomplete.

However, everything changed the moment the seven-colored light merged with it.

The fissures on the stones were filled and healed by the bright light.

The gaps and missing parts on the pattern on the floor of the formation were also knitted back together and reconnected by the light.

The ancient teleportation portal suddenly became dazzling and glowed with a bright luster, as if it were now brimming with a mysterious power.

Everyone who had been gathered there had long since wished to

leave the Heaven Gate trial via that ancient teleportation portal. Therefore, they were all thrilled by the spectacle. “Wow!”

Feng Luo’s expression flickered. “Nie Tian’s arrival fixed the ancient teleportation portal, infusing it with new power and thus reviving it!”

He subconsciously looked at Qiu Heng out of the corner of his eyes and with a cold snort, he said, “Didn’t you say that you’re an expert of inter-spacial power? We spared you all kinds of spiritual materials and let you have your ways with them over the past three months. Did the teleportation portal change even a bit?”

Embarrassment stretched across Qiu Heng’s face. He could only force a smile onto his face and say nothing.

Over the past months, they had searched every meteor in the region, but failed to find anything noteworthy. Thus, everyone was very eager to leave this place.

The only thing they deemed capable of getting them out of this place was the dilapidated teleportation portal in front of them.

Although Qiu Heng’s cultivation base wasn’t the highest among them, he had some knowledge regarding the profound inter-spacial powers.

That was the reason why everyone had been willing to give him their spiritual materials that could be used to cast inter-spacial

teleportation spells.

They had hoped that Qiu Heng could restore the ancient teleportation portal to a usable state, so that they could use it to leave the Heaven Gate dimension now that they could no longer find anything of value.

However, Qiu Heng failed to make any progress with the teleportation portal after consuming numerous valuable spiritual materials.

It was still as dim and lifeless as it had always been, and not a single thing about it had changed.

However, the moment Nie Tian descended from the heavens, the seven-colored light that had enveloped him seemed to instantly activate the teleportation portal, causing everyone's eyes to glitter with excitement.

Qiu Heng had badmouthed Nie Tian moments ago in a way as if he wished that Nie Tian had died in some distant universe.

If Nie Tian had actually died as he had expected, it would be very likely that they wouldn't have been able to start the teleportation portal and leave the place.

"If you don't know how to do it, you should have told us, so that we wouldn't have thrown away so many spiritual materials!" Hong Can from the Hell sect said with an unpleasant expression on his

face.

Others also shot unfriendly gazes towards Qiu Heng, thinking that he was nothing but a big talker.

An Shiyi, who was standing right next to Qiu Heng, had a hearty smile on her face as she said, “I told you that nothing would happen to him. See? Isn’t he safe and sound?”

“Sure.” Qiu Heng answered, but he cursed in his heart, Little bastard!

While the teleportation portal gradually regained its function, Li Fan from the Cloudsoaring sect stepped towards Nie Tian and asked, “Where did you go? How come you were gone for three months?”

“Three months?!” Nie Tian was taken aback.

He had spent most of his time fighting and recuperating in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

When the fights were finally over, he had concentrated on absorbing the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth and using it to refine his spiritual sea.

In addition, whenever starlight poured out of the starry river, he had focused his mind on channeling it to his soul, where seven fragmentary stars eventually took shape.

Therefore, he had completely lost track of time, and didn't expect himself to have spent months in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

"Yes, three months and three days, to be exact." With these words, Li Fan's expression suddenly flickered. Eyes wide, he took another look at Nie Tian and asked, "Have you broken through into the middle Lesser Heaven stage?"

Nie Tian nodded softly and said, "Yes, you're right. I made the breakthrough right before I was taken out of here."

Li Fan was increasingly shocked as he asked, "So have you made more progress?"

Nie Tian grinned, "I think I'm only one step away from stepping into the late Lesser Heaven stage, and it's possible that I might make the breakthrough any moment now."

Li Fan was flabbergasted. "What good fortune did you get in the place you went to?"

With these words, he took note that the Heaven Sparks in the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of Nie Tian's hand were gone and a hexagram had taken their place.

Although he didn't know what the hexagram represented, he had a feeling that it had something to do with Nie Tian's good fortune.

Just as Nie Tian was about to elaborate to Li Fan, he glanced around and saw that people from the other sects were looking closely at them and listening attentively.

Apparently, each and every one of them was very curious about what had happened to him.

Hence, Nie Tian chuckled and didn't answer Li Fan's question. Instead, he asked, "What about you?"

He cast his gaze towards Jiang Lingzhu. "Did you find anything of value?"

"Of course!" Jiang Lingzhu tilted her chin as she said proudly, "I found a incantation on one of the meteors, and I also looted a special tool from an outsider body."

"Wow, good for you." Nie Tian smiled and shifted his gaze to An Shiyi, who was standing quite close to him, and asked, "What about you, sister?"

An Shiyi pursed her lips into a charming smile and said, "I've also made some gains. If there were no mishaps, I believe I'll be able to break through into the Greater Heaven stage soon after returning to the Realm of Flame Heaven."

All the others realized that Nie Tian had intentionally avoided the topic, and thus didn't say anything.

As a matter of fact, since they managed to survive till now, every one of them had made some gains, whether it be physically or mentally.

There were a large number of meteors in the region, and many of them carried secrets or valuable items, so they all gained something, although some more, some less.

It was just that none of them were willing to share their findings with others.

The powerful ones, who had approached the city when it was still emanating special energy, had absorbed numerous mysterious symbols into their Heaven Sparks.

Even though they had nothing to do with the Fragmentary Star Incantation, those symbols carried the profound truths of different types of power.

Moreover, all the symbols they had received matched perfectly with their cultivation attributes.

Therefore, the way they saw it, the magical symbols alone had made the Heaven Gate trial a worthy venture.

At that time, Hong Can from the Hell sect noticed that a gate of seven-colored light had gradually took shape in the center the portal. His expression flickered as he called out to the crowd, “If

my speculations are correct, this ancient teleportation portal is probably linked to the Heaven Gate near my sect.

“The Heaven Gate trial is over! By stepping into the light gate, we’ll probably be able to travel back to the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

After a brief pause, he continued, “However, we don’t know what the Realm of Flame Heaven is like now. Great changes might have already taken place there.

“Prepare yourselves, everyone. I think the portal will be activated for some time. Let’s restore our strength to the fullest and enter at our peak state.

“I’m afraid that we’ll face even bigger challenges when we come out the other end.”

Upon hearing Hong Can’s words, everyone’s heart grew heavy, and their eyes were filled with uneasiness as they looked towards the light gate.

That included Nie Tian.

Before stepping into the Heaven Gate, he had already learned from the foreign Qi warriors that they had considered the Realm of Flame Heaven to be a piece of meat ready to be carved.

Aside from them, demon armies might also have swarmed into

the Realm of Flame Heaven.

People from the Realm of Flame Heaven might have already been plunged into an abyss of misery, and fights could be taking place around every corner. As soon as they returned, they would very likely face the joint invasion of demons and foreign cultivators.

“Perhaps, we don’t need to go back so quickly.” Qiu Heng suddenly said in a soft voice.

Chapter 186: Another Step Forward!

Upon hearing Qiu Heng's words, everyone subconsciously turned to look at him, and uneasiness could be seen in their eyes.

After being invaded by the Blood sect and Ghost sect, the Spiritual Treasure sect was now the weakest of the seven sects, and it had almost fallen out of the same league as the other six sects.

Since the Earth Flame Beast had broken free from the deepest parts of the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, the entire mountain range had undergone an upheaval, and the grand Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation, which the Spiritual Treasure sect's livelihood depended on, had also been completely destroyed.

That was why every disciple of the Spiritual Treasure sect had become anxious whenever they thought about their future.

Before entering the Heaven Gate, when Qiu Heng had learned that demons would descend upon the Realm of Flame Heaven, he imagined that the Spiritual Treasure sect would probably not have the ability to hold off their invasion now that the Heaven Burning Earth Flame formation was gone.

The reason why he wasn't so eager to go back to the Realm of Flame Heaven was that he worried that returning to his sect might put an end to his life.

He was truly terrified.

Although many of the others despised Qiu Heng, a few of them fell into silence after hearing his words.

They all believed that the Realm of Flame Heaven was in an abyss of suffering. Even worse, it might have been taken over by the demons already...

If that was the case, their returning now was none other than going to their own grave.

“What’s the matter?” Hong Can from the Hell sect frowned as he looked at those who had lost their fighting spirit and said, “You all agree with Qiu Heng?”

Feng Luo snorted coldly and said, “The realm of Flame Heaven is in turmoil so it needs us now more than ever! We have to return as soon as possible! Without it, we’ll be nothing but a handful of drifting ghosts. Each and every one of us was raised and favored by our sects. It’s only right that we protect them when others want to take them away from us!”

Li Fan nodded in assent.

However, Zou Yi from the Ghost sect and Guan Gu from the Grayvale sect, together with a couple of others, still remained in silence.

After a while, Zou Yi suddenly said, “After the trial, some of us

may now be on the verge of breaking through. I'd say it's better that we make the breakthrough here and return with more strength. From the way it looks, the teleportation portal is going to last for a while, so we still have some time before we have to go back to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

“We can use this period of time to draw enlightenment from our experiences over the past few months, and study the good fortune that we've obtained here.

“Perhaps, returning when our strength has reached a maximum would be a better choice. After all, that way we'll be able to contribute more.

“What do you all say?”

Zou Yi's gaze swept through the crowd.

Guan Qiu, Qiu Heng, and two disciples of the Mystic Mist sect nodded in assent.

Hong Can took a glance at them, and after a moment of pondering, he said, “Alright, let's take a while to adjust ourselves, but hurry. I'll keep an eye on the teleportation portal and remind you when it shows signs of running out of energy so that we can teleport back to our realm before it closes.”

“Ok, let's get started,” said Feng Luo.

Everyone sat down by the side of the ancient teleportation portal. People from the same sect gathered into small groups and started contemplating their gains in the Heaven Gate trial.

Nie Tian sat with Li Fan and Jiang Lingzhu. Calming himself and narrowing his eyes, he used his psychic awareness to examine his spiritual sea.

Two vortexes of spiritual power, one vortex of flame power and one vortex of wood power, were rotating at a high speed within his spiritual sea.

It seemed that the misty, white spiritual power within them had already been refined to the fullest after numerous rounds of refinement, and he wouldn't be able to further refine it before his spiritual sea upgraded.

He was aware that he had reached a bottleneck, and given the right stimulation, he would instantly make the breakthrough and step into the next stage.

He continued to observe his spiritual sea as he took out a spirit stone. As soon as he started absorbing energy from it, he felt a strange sensation.

He looked down at the Heaven Gate pattern on the back of his hand.

The two hexagrams within the pattern started to shine with faint

starlight.

Then, eyes wide, he looked up into the starry sky.

Countless stars were hanging high in the ice-cold starry river; some of them were glittering with bright light, while others looked rather dim.

Some stars seemed extremely distant and were only the size of grains, while others were the size of grapes.

He felt that the hexagrams had somehow interacted with those stars while he had examined his spiritual sea and meditated.

He looked at the stars with rapt attention and found that they seemed to shine brighter now, and he even felt that the starlight was slightly gathering towards him.

He wanted to channel the starlight into his soul, but when he cast the incantation, he couldn't feel any change in his soul.

On the contrary, a flash of starlight flashed across his spiritual sea, which was brimming with spiritual power.

“Yee?!” Surprised, he immediately shifted his focus from his soul to the sea of spiritual power in his dantian.

At that moment, he also realized that the two hexagrams on his

hand had grown dazzlingly bright.

More and more starlight poured down from the ice-cold starry sky and converged on Nie Tian's hexagrams.

As he operated the Qi Refining Incantation, the starlight started to flow into his arms and gradually circulate through his entire body.

Before long, a small light spot was born in his spiritual sea and grew increasingly bright.

Deeply intrigued, Nie Tian concentrated his attention on his spiritual sea. While he observed the shining light spot, another one took shape next to it.

Immediately afterwards, his originally calm spiritual sea started to ripple with raging, huge waves, as if it all had been caused by those two tiny light spots that looked like stars.

The misty, white spiritual energy constantly rose and descended violently within his spiritual sea. As the two vortexes of spiritual power started to rotate at a unprecedentedly high speed, Nie Tian sense that more spiritual energy was allowed into his spiritual sea.

CRACKLE!

The spirit stone in Nie Tian's hand suddenly shattered into pieces, seemingly drained of its spiritual energy in a flash!

Without saying a word, Nie Tian took out six more spirit stones from his bracelet of holding; holding three in each hand, he started absorbing the energy within them.

After all, unlike the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, there wasn't even the slightest bit of the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in this place. Therefore, he had to use spirit stones if he wished to upgrade his spiritual sea.

At that moment, Li Fan, who had been contemplating beside him with his eyes closed, seemed to have felt something and snapped open his eyes.

Sitting next to him, Jiang Lingzhu also opened her eyes and looked at him with a surprised and confused expression on her face.

Both of them had sensed the violent energy fluctuations that Nie Tian emanated into the surroundings.

Li Fan's eyes glittered with a sharp light as he used his psychic awareness to examine the unusual spiritual power fluctuations. A moment later, he grinned and said, "This kid is indeed quite beyond ordinary."

He could tell that Nie Tian was currently on the verge of breaking through.

Jiang Lingzhu was taken aback. “Is he going to enter the late Lesser Heaven stage soon?”

Li Fan nodded and said in a soft voice, “I bet he obtained a good fortune in that mysterious place, way more than us. After disappearing for three months, he now seems like a totally different person. Although I don’t know exactly what happened to him, I assume what he had gained in those three months will be life-changing for him!

“I think it’s safe to say that, among all the trial takers, he gained the most fortune, and he’s the biggest winner of the Heaven Gate trial!”

Shocked, Jiang Lingzhu didn’t say anything in reply, but rather secretly glanced around, fearing that others might have overheard their conversation.

“Do we need to guard him while he cultivates?” She asked in a low voice.

Li Fan smiled and shook his head. “We would probably need to if it were before, but now it’s a different time. I don’t think we need to now. The Realm of Flame Heaven is probably at war with the wave of demons. Facing such great calamities, I believe the seven sects will stick together, at least for the time being. From what I can tell, that kid seems to have won acknowledgment from Hong Can, Feng Luo, and Zou Yi, and they all believe Nie Tian has the potential to become one of the strongest experts in all the realms. I doubt that they’ll try to make a move on him.”

“The speed this guy advances at is simply unbelievable...” Jiang Lingzhu sounded somewhat frustrated. “He was merely in the fourth level of the Qi Refining stage when I first met him. I would never have imagined that his cultivation base would surpass mine in such a short time.”

Li Fan said with a slight smile, “I have to say martial granduncle is a perfect judge of talent.”

It was also at that moment that a third vortex of spiritual power, together with a small vortex that was filled with starlight, appeared in Nie Tian’s violently moving spiritual sea!

Afterwards, his turbulent spiritual sea rapidly returned to peace.

That was when he realized that he had made another breakthrough and stepped into the late Lesser Heaven stage.

Chapter 187: The Special One

Pieces of broken spirit stones were scattered in front of Nie Tian.

Li Fan and Jiang Lingzhu both realized that he had made the breakthrough and since they didn't want to disturb him or attract others' attention, they stopped looking at him.

After glancing around, they discovered that the others were still contemplating or recuperating with spirit stones, and no one seemed to have noticed what happened with Nie Tian.

Only Yu Tong, who was sitting next to Feng Luo, looked over from time to time for unknown reasons.

Since she had considered Nie Tian to be her number one opponent, she never stopped thinking about having a fair fight with him someday.

Because of her repeated losses to him, he had become her mental devil, especially when every time he had defeated her, his cultivation base had been lower than hers.

That fact left her extremely frustrated.

“That guy used so many spirit stones. Don't tell me he made another breakthrough!” Yu Tong exclaimed in her heart, her eyes filled with deep hatred. However, a while later, her expression grew somewhat complicated.

When she had first met Nie Tian in the Heaven Gate trial, Feng Luo told her, after a brief examination, that Nie Tian had stepped into the middle Lesser Heaven stage.

The fact that Nie Tian had managed to break through into the middle Lesser Heaven and caught up to her stage had already been shocking to her.

No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't imagine what he had experienced in the past three months that led him to another breakthrough in his cultivation base in such a short time.

Nie Tian's rapid advancement had put her under great pressure, and she feared that it wouldn't be very long before the gap between their cultivation bases grew larger and larger.

"I won't fall behind! And I won't lose to you again!" Yu Tong gritted her teeth as a sense of competition rose in her heart.

Then she refrained from thinking more about it, and immediately submerged herself in cultivation.

WHOOSH!

After an unknown period of time, Nie Tian woke up from his cultivation and let out a mouthful of air.

By that time, there were three vortexes of spiritual power, one vortex of flame power, one vortex of wood power, and a vortex of starlight in his spiritual sea.

The six vortexes that contained different types of power rotated regularly and peacefully.

After the violent movements triggered by the spirit stones was over, his spiritual sea seemed to be ready for more expansion.

He could have taken more spirit stones out of his bracelet of holding and continued with his cultivation.

However, he had a feeling that the seven-colored light shooting out of the teleportation portal had become dimmer, which could be a sign that the energy was running out.

After all, the light had protected him and transferred him from the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace back to this place, so a subtle connection had been born between them.

As expected.

Just as he was about to say something, the light gate in the middle of the ancient teleportation portal suddenly became twisted and blurry.

He realized he was right, and the portal really was running out of power.

At that same moment, Hong Can, who had been observing the teleportation portal, came to the same realization and called out, “Wake up, everyone!”

His shout woke everyone from their recuperation or meditation.

Hong Can’s expression was very grim as he said, “We have to go now! Let’s get into the portal one by one! And remember, prepare yourselves!”

Upon hearing his words, everyone sprung to their feet. Even Qiu Heng from the Spiritual Treasure sect didn’t utter a word of objection.

After all, he also knew that when the seven-colored light went out and the teleportation portal ran out of power, whoever chose to stay would very likely be trapped in this dimension forever and would never return to the Domain of the Falling Stars again.

Since there was no life and no spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in here, he couldn’t cultivate in this place.

With his current cultivation base, he couldn’t possibly travel between dimensions. No matter how many spirit stones he had on him, he would run out one day.

When he did, even the cold wind alone would drain his power and kill him.

After realizing that he had no other choice, he looked back at An Shiyi and urged her to get in first with a cold tone, “Let’s go!”

An Shiyi knew that her previous comments had angered Qiu Heng, so she said with no expression on her face, “Fine.”

She even expected that Qiu Heng might secretly undermine her after they returned to the Spiritual Treasure sect.

However, since she had made quite significant gains in the Heaven Gate trial, she was confident that she would soon step into the Greater Heaven stage, and by that time, she wouldn’t need to care how Qiu Heng felt any more.

“We disciples from the Hell sect will go first; the rest of you follow us!” After uttering these words with decisiveness, Hong Can took the initiative to enter the seven-colored light gate.

The other Hell sect disciples immediately followed him into it.

Back when he had descended from the palace, Nie Tian had searched the crowd for Zhao Haifeng.

The fact that he had killed Wu Tao, the guest elder from the Nie clan, in Black Cloud City made Nie Tian engrave his name in his heart.

He knew that Zhao Haifeng and Duan Yuan had both entered the Heaven Gate, therefore he had been secretly trying to find a chance to kill those two.

However, it seemed that foreign Qi warriors had gotten to them before Nie Tian could, and they had died in the trial like many other disciples from the seven sects.

He felt sorry that he couldn't avenge Wu Tao himself.

No matter what, the Heaven Gate trial had come to an end.

Since the seven sects of the Realm of Flame Heaven were joining hands in fighting their common enemies, and Zhao Haifeng and Duan Yuan were already dead, he decided to put aside his enmity towards the Hell sect.

At that moment, Nie Tian thought of Liu Yan's death and roared in his heart, "Tang Yang, I hope we'll meet again!"

Zhao Haifeng and Duan Yuan had died, but Tang Yang hadn't. Nie Tian made a promise to himself that he'd use his entire life to hunt down Tang Yang, even if it meant that he would have to kill him in the Realm of Dark Underworld.

Just as he was sorting through his thoughts, many others had already entered the light gate one after another.

He saw An Shiyi cast him a glance before entering, as if she

wanted him to go with her.

However, under Qiu Heng's urging, she could only step into the gate.

“Let's go, Uncle Li.”

Nie Tian decided not to wait any longer and stepped into the bright light gate.

Moments later, he disappeared into the light gate.

In the Blood sect's territory, the Realm of Flame Heaven...

A Heaven Gate that unceasingly radiated blinding light had taken shape over a distant mountain valley for a few days.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

One by one, a few figures whizzed out of the light gate and fell into the valley.

As soon as they flashed out of the Heaven Gate, the patterns on the back of their hands grew blurry before they completely vanished.

The Heaven Sparks within vanished with them, not even leaving

the slightest trace.

Standing on the valley ground, Hong Can looked down at the back of his hand, which was now as clean as a blank piece of paper, and then looked up at the Heaven Gate in midair, pondering what had happened.

After obtaining a firm foothold on the ground, every trial taker noticed the changes to their Heaven Gate patterns that they had already grown used to.

“The Heaven Gate pattern is gone! The secret magics and incantations stored within the Heaven Spark are also gone!”

“What the hell?! What’s going on!?”

“I should have spent more time sorting through the symbols and comprehending the mysteries within the Heaven Sparks in the Heaven Gate dimension!”

“Dammit!”

Looking at the back of their hands, many of them felt regretful and frustrated.

After all, all the fragments of the secret magics they had obtained from the dilapidated city had been stored in their Heaven Sparks.

Each and every one of them had found the magics perfectly agreeable with their cultivation attribute, and thus made significant gains when they learned the profound truths that lay within them.

However, all the things that they had cherished dearly disappeared in a flash.

They all found it hard to accept.

Seconds later, Nie Tian also flew out of the Heaven Gate. After landing close to An Shiyi, he smiled at her.

The same thing happened to him. The Heaven Gate pattern on his hand also vanished as soon as he flew out of the Heaven Gate.

However, the two hexagrams that were originally in his Heaven Gate pattern didn't vanish with it, but rather appeared in the middle of his chest, as if they were some kind of tattoos.

He examined them with his psychic power and found that the ancient symbols within the hexagrams were still intact and perfectly aligned, not a single one missing.

The first and middle parts of the Fragmentary Star Incantation were still written clearly within them.

Soon, everyone was out of the Heaven Gate, and everyone had lost their Heaven Gate pattern together with everything within

them. Only he got to keep the hexagrams and the legacies within.

He was the special one.

Chapter 188: Raging Demon Qi

Feng Luo from the Blood sect glanced around. Face filled with confusion, he said, “Why are we here? Shouldn’t we be somewhere outside of the Hell sect?”

He looked towards Hong Can.

Hong Can frowned, shook his head, and said, “I don’t know. After all, this is the first time one of the Heaven Gates had opened in the Realm of Flame Heaven in centuries, and as far as I know, there aren’t any records of the past Heaven Gates.”

With a sigh, Feng Luo looked off into the direction of the Blood sect, expression filled with anxiety. “And we don’t know what’s happening in the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

Normally speaking, since the Heaven Gate had showed up in this place, it was impossible that members of the Blood sect hadn’t noticed it.

According to Feng Luo’s speculation, the Heaven Gate probably had been here for some time. It probably had appeared when Nie Tian had returned and the seven-colored light merged with the teleportation portal, activating the light gate in the middle.

The Heaven Gate should have been here for however long they had spent recuperating beside the teleportation portal.

It didn't make sense that no one from the Blood sect had come after such a long time.

As he and Hong Can talked, the others gradually calmed down from the frustration of losing their Heaven Gate patterns.

Li Fan took a glance of Nie Tian's left hand and noticed that the Heaven Gate pattern on his hand had also disappeared.

He seemed to have expected it to be different for him, but said nothing.

After sensing that the two hexagrams had shifted to his chest, Nie Tian didn't plan to reveal it to anyone.

After all, it contained the most precious legacies that he had obtained from his trial in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

He didn't want others to raise questions, so he had joined them in mumbling something in frustration. After seeing that no one seemed to have seen through his little scheme, he finally felt relieved.

After all, the first and middle part of the Fragmentary Star Incantation were of great importance. If Hong Can, Feng Luo, and Zou Yi had learned that he had them, he didn't know for sure what they would do.

He knew he had to keep it a secret for the time being.

“What do you think we should do?” Zou Yi from the Ghost sect had a grim expression on his face as he asked. “Should we split up and return to our own sects or go to the Blood sect and see what information we can get from there?”

“Let’s go to the Blood sect,” Hong Can said. “I have a feeling that something is not right.”

“Alright.” The others also expressed their assent.

None of them want to be separated from the group and return to their sects before getting an idea of what was going on in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

If they did strike out on their own, they couldn’t be sure what they would run into on their way back.

They could encounter either outsider demons or cultivators from the other realms. Whichever it was, they wouldn’t be in a favorable situation if they traveled alone.

At that moment, Zou Yi called out to the crowd, sounding a bit frightened. “Look! Up in the sky!”

Everyone instantly looked up and saw a line of blackish-purple smoke flowing high in the sky like a river.

They had seen smoke like that floating above the Hell sect right before they had entered the Heaven Gate.

Back then, blackish-purple smoke like this had surged out of the network of numerous spacial rifts that had appeared near the Heaven Gate. The outsiders that had been bound by the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation had experienced a sudden boost in their strength as soon as they had absorbed the smoke. As a result, they had broken free from the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation and flown into the spacial rifts.

“Demon Qi!” Hong Can’s expression flickered.

Then he explained to everyone, “Years and years ago, demon Qi once filled every corner of the Realm of Flame Heaven. Although the demon Qi shares the same origin as spiritual Qi, the biggest difference is that it’s tainted with filth. Human Qi warriors can’t cultivate with the demon Qi, and if they do, they will lose their minds and become the outsider demons’ puppets.

“By the time the powerful human Qi warriors killed the majority of the outsiders and drove the survivors out of the realm, they used profound measures to purge the demon Qi and turn it into spiritual Qi that human Qi warriors could use.

“The outsiders, on the other hand, couldn’t draw power from the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth.

“That was why we could use the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation to trap those outsiders for so many years. Without the

demon Qi, they had no source of power; meanwhile the formation constantly drained their flesh power and used it to power our sect's defensive system.

“Now that the demon Qi has appeared near the Blood sect, it must mean that...”

Hong Can glanced at the grim-faced Feng Luo and continued, “The Blood sect has been invaded by outsiders. Perhaps, numerous demons are roaming about in the Blood sect right now.”

Feng Luo's face was very grim. He didn't say a word, but he inwardly agreed with Hong Can's speculations.

The moment he saw the river of blackish-purple demon Qi floating in the sky, he realized that the Blood sect had most likely been invaded.

With a concerned expression on his face, Qiu Heng from the Spiritual Treasure sect said in a soft voice, “Now that the Blood sect has been invaded, do we still go there? The Ghost sect is not far from the Blood sect. How about we go there instead?” Knowing that there was probably a swarm of outsiders in the Blood sect, all he wanted was to get as far from it as he could. He didn't want to get into fierce fights the moment he returned to the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Feng Luo let out a cold harrumph and said, “You do what you like! As a disciple of the Blood sect, I'll defend my sect with my life!”

With these words, he didn't even look at the others and dashed straight towards the Blood sect.

Yu Tong followed him as soon as he moved out.

At that time, Nie Tian realized that all the others had remained in place and didn't say anything.

After all, none of them were from the Blood sect, and they didn't have the spirit to die for it.

This was especially true of the disciples of the Spiritual Treasure sect, whose sect had been invaded by the Blood sect and Ghost sect. Numerous expressions flashed across Qiu Heng's face as he beckoned for An Shiyi to say something.

He wanted An Shiyi to express her unwillingness to go to the Blood sect.

However, An Shiyi completely despised him, so she ignored his urging gaze.

Upon seeing her reaction, Qiu Heng cursed her inwardly. However, since he couldn't do anything to her now, he could only secretly add it to his hatred towards her.

"We're still quite a distance from the Ghost sect. Who knows

what we will run into on our way there.” After a moment of hesitation, Hong Can made up his mind and said, “The disciples of the Hell sect will go to the Blood sect. The rest of you make your own choice.”

With these words, he led the other Hell sect survivors to chase after Feng Luo.

Upon seeing Hong Can leaving with such determination, Zou Yi from the Ghost sect spoke up, “The Ghost sect had always fought side by side with the Blood sect. We have more reasons to stand together now that the Realm of Flame Heaven is stricken by great calamities! Wait for us, Brother Hong! Count the Ghost sect in!”

With these words, he led members of the Ghost sect as they also ran in the Blood sect’s direction.

After all, the Hell sect, Ghost sect, and Blood sect had been in the same alliance. It was natural that the Ghost sect and Hell sect went to their aid when the Blood sect was in danger.

However, the Spiritual Treasure sect, Cloudsoaring sect, Grayvale sect, and Mystic Mist sect had been enemies with the other three sects.

Nie Tian didn’t know what choice they would make at this moment.

“What do you guys say?” Li Fan asked in a manly voice.

Guan Qiu from the Grayvale sect pondered for a moment and said, “With Hong Can and those other guys gone, our strength is significantly weakened, and there’s a long way ahead of us if we choose to return to our own sects. I think we should go with them and see what’s going on in the Blood sect.”

“That’s what I think too,” Li Fan agreed.

Shi Hang, the Greater Heaven stage expert from the Mystic Mist sect also nodded and said, “Agreed.”

Li Fan turned to look at Qiu Heng, the only one who hadn’t said anything. “What about you?”

“Well...” Qiu Heng smiled bitterly.

“Hmm. You do whatever you like.” Li Fan didn’t even wait for him to give an answer. He quickly turned to Nie Tian and Jiang Lingzhu and said, “Let’s go.”

“Wait. I’ll go with you,” An Shiyi suddenly called out and trotted to Nie Tian’s side.

Seeing that An Shiyi had made her stance, Qiu Heng’s face immediately sunk.

Chapter 189: The Road Ahead Is Full of Danger

“Bitch! Wait till we get back to the Spiritual Treasure sect! See how I’ll deal with you then!” Anger filled Qiu Heng’s cold eyes as he watched An Shiyi walk side by side with Nie Tian, talking and smiling.

At that time, the Heaven Gate in midair had already disappeared.

All the disciples from the other sects followed along after Hong Can and his fellow sect members had dashed off in the same direction as Feng Luo.

Qiu Heng was the only one left behind.

After inwardly cursing An Shiyi for a while, he looked up and saw the surging demon Qi. He couldn’t help but start to feel terrified.

He was well aware that it was very unlikely that he could safely return to the Spiritual Treasure sect by himself.

Even if he ran into only one outsider on his way back, considering his cultivation base, he probably would end up killed.

After hesitating for a while, he let out a sigh and sped off after everyone.

Nie Tian marched side by side with An Shiyi behind Li Fan and the others. He turned to her and asked, “What’s wrong with that guy? It seems that he doesn’t like you very much. Isn’t he a senior of the Spiritual Treasure sect? He should protect you and help you all the time, but why did he force you to do and say things that he was unwilling to?”

Actually, Nie Tian had long noticed the unpleasant look in his eyes since he came back from the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace and landed in the teleportation portal.

Afterwards, he discovered that Qiu Heng had disagreed with everyone else in many occasions, and whenever they faced danger, he would do everything to keep himself safe.

He had behaved exactly the same when the others were determined to go to the Blood sect. However, he didn’t have the courage to say his opinion, so he beckoned for An Shiyi to do it for him.

From what Nie Tian could tell, even though Qiu Heng had a rather high status in the Spiritual Treasure sect, he was small-minded and hard to get along with.

“Oh, him?” An Shiyi’s slender eyebrows furrowed as she said in a low voice. “He’s thinking the same thing Gang Kang did.”

“Gan Kang!” Nie Tian suddenly realized what was going on and said, “So that’s how it is...”

He had long since learned from An Ying what intentions Gan Kang had with An Shiyi and how he had tried to force her to marry him.

Now that An Shiyi told him that Qiu Heng harbored the same intentions as Gan Kang, Nie Tian immediately knew what kind of person he was.

He looked deeply towards An Shiyi.

She was wearing a long, rose-red dress, which brought out her curvaceous body. Every smile and move of hers was elegant, and her captivating eyes could easily sink any man.

She was in her prime, as beautiful as a blossoming flower, which many men wished to pick.

Being so charming, but not from a powerful family, no wonder men from the Spiritual Treasure sect pursued her all the time.

Nie Tian had long since heard that countless men from the Spiritual school and Treasure school drooled over her beauty, and many of them held lofty positions in the sect.

“Gan Kang is dead, and now comes this Qiu Heng person...” Nie Tian gave a snort and said, “If he dares to step over the line and mess with you, I’ll make sure he goes to meet Gan Kang in hell!”

“Gan Kang is dead?” An Shiyi’s jaw slightly dropped, rounding her red lips.

She only knew that Gan Kang had abandoned the Spiritual Treasure sect and disappeared from the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range. She thought he had left the Realm of Flame Heaven and gone to the Realm of Dark Underworld with Lai Yi.

As long as Gan Kang was alive, he would always be a giant stone weighing down on An Shiyi’s mind.

Especially now.

According to the foreign trial takers, powerful experts from the other realms had been plotting against the Realm of Flame Heaven and would surely invade, or already had.

The Realm of Dark Underworld was one of them.

An Shiyi had been worrying that Gan Kang would return to the Realm of Flame Heaven with powerful backers one day, and take her or force her to marry him again.

Therefore, upon hearing about his death, she was surprised and happy and also found it a bit hard to believe.

Nie Tian nodded and reassured her in a low voice, “Someone brought me his and Lai Yi’s heads.”

An Shiyi's deep eyes were wide as she looked at him, face full of disbelief. "Was it senior Wu Ji?"

"No." Nie Tian shook his head and didn't want to say anything about Hua Mu. "Anyways, you just need to know that Gan Kang and Lai Yi are both dead now."

"It's not senior Wu Ji?!" A light flashed across An Shiyi's eyes as she now found Nie Tian even more mysterious and unfathomable.

The one thing she was certain about Nie Tian was that he was a person of many secrets.

She had known Nie Tian for years.

When she had first met him, he was still a boy, a boy she found interesting, but after the tempering of the Green Illusion dimension trial and Heaven Gate trial, he had already grown to a burly young man, much bigger than other boys his age.

Aside from the physical changes, Nie Tian had also taken on a few qualities of a mature man.

Compared to before, he was more confident, determined, and daring. As his cultivation base advanced by leaps and bounds, he was now a powerful young Qi warrior.

For unknown reasons, An Shiyi now found him more like a real man now, a man who had saved her quite a few times and asked for nothing in return, giving her a sense of safety which she had never felt with anyone else.

“Interesting guy!” An Shiyi seemed carried away by her thoughts as she slightly bit her lower lip like a teenage girl.

At that moment, people in the front suddenly stopped.

Nie Tian and An Shiyi also came to a stop. After glancing around, they found themselves in the middle of a valley.

Gravel could be seen everywhere around them. Not far ahead of them, Feng Luo and Yu Tong’s faces were grim as they stood in front of hundreds of dried-up, stone-made ponds.

All those ponds should have been filled with blood, which disciples of the Blood sect could use to cultivate.

However, not only was every single one of the blood ponds now empty, but they couldn’t even find a single disciple of the Blood sect.

This place was very close to the gate of the Blood sect. Normally, disciples of the three Heaven stages could be seen here around the clock, tempering their body in the blood pond or practicing magics with the blood.

After seeing that Li Fan, Guan Qiu, and the others had also arrived, Feng Luo looked a bit surprised. “I didn’t expect that you guys would come, but anyways, I, Feng Luo, want to thank you all for coming to the Blood sect at such a difficult time. If the Blood sect somehow lives through this calamity, we will surely come to your aid whenever your sects are in danger.”

“No need to thank us,” Li Fan said. “We’re in the same boat now. We fought side by side in the Heaven Gate trial, and managed to kill those people from the other realms. I believe that as long as we stand as one, neither the outsiders nor the foreign Qi warriors will be able to take the Realm of Flame Heaven. We will persevere!”

Brow still deeply furrowed, Feng Luo nodded and said, “I hope you’re right.”

Hong Can from the Hell sect also had a grim expression on his face as he looked in the direction of the Hell sect’s main gate and said, “From the look of it, the Blood sect had probably been attacked by the outsiders. I can sense that the demon Qi over at the gate of the Blood sect is very strong. It’s just that, limited by my cultivation base, I can’t tell if there are auras of outsiders within that Qi.”

“Neither can I,” Feng Luo let out a sigh and said. “The Blood sect definitely has been attacked. It’s just that I can’t tell how bad it was. After all, the era when outsiders walked this realm was too far from us, and thus we know nothing of them.”

“However,” Hong Can said worriedly, “what I can tell is that the demon Qi is gradually polluting the spiritual Qi of Heaven and

Earth in the Realm of Flame Heaven. By the time that all the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth in the Realm of Flame Heaven has been polluted and turned into demon Qi, we will have an even smaller chance of winning this war.”

“Damn them!” Jiang Lingzhu said angrily with a cold snort. “People from the other realms knew that outsiders would invade the Realm of Flame Heaven, but not only did they refuse to help us, they even wanted to get a piece for themselves!”

With a serious face, Hong Can said, “They have been drooling over our realm for a long time now. The Hell sect has been overseeing the Realm of Flame Heaven for centuries. We know what they’ve been thinking. Unfortunately, since our seven sects aren’t strong enough, they never gave up the idea of taking the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

BAM!

All of a sudden, a subtle sound rang out from under the valley ground they were standing on.

As soon as they heard the sound, Feng Luo and Yu Tong exchanged a look and strange lights could be seen in their eyes.

In the same moment, Nie Tian’s heart began beating unusually as the sound echoed out.

Chapter 190: Bone Blood Demon

“What was that!?” Face filled with surprise, Li Fan subconsciously looked down at the ground under his feet and unleashed his psychic awareness to examine what was under there.

However, it only reached a position about thirty meters below the surface before it was obstructed by a layer of blood and couldn't go any further.

After hearing the strange sound, the others also unleashed their psychic awareness to scan the surroundings and ran into the same obstruction as Li Fan had.

None of them were able to detect what was under the ground.

“You're wasting your energy,” Feng Luo said. “That layer of blood was established by our sectmaster. Considering your cultivation bases, none of you will be able to penetrate it with your psychic power.”

BAM!

At that moment, another strange sound rang out from under the ground.

Feng Luo and Yu Tong's expressions looked increasingly intense, as if they knew something wasn't right.

“What’s going on? One heartbeat echoing out every once in awhile is quite normal, but never have I experienced two heartbeats taking place so closely together.” Feng Luo rubbed his chin as he looked blankly at the ground under his feet. He seemed to have forgotten the situation that they were facing and muttered to himself, “Something’s wrong. It’s been so many years and it has never behaved this way.”

“Other than the occasional heartbeat, it hasn’t showed any sign of life in so many years.”

“Even the sect elders declared that it was a lost cause and abandoned it.”

Yu Tong pondered for a moment and said, “Uncle Feng, could it be that the upheaval in the Realm of Flame Heaven caused changes to it?”

Nie Tian suddenly jumped in and said, “Someone once told me that the appearance of the Heaven Gate would give rise to many changes in the heaven and earth.”

“Senior Wu Ji said that?” Feng Luo asked.

Nie Tian knew he had better not tell others about Hua Mu, so he said, “Yeah.”

“Is it really caused by the drastic changes in the heaven and earth?” Feng Luo’s mind drifted away for a moment before he

suddenly turned to Yu Tong and said, “Do you have your master’s Blood Spirit Pearl with you?”

“Yes, I do,” Yu Tong answered. “My master feared that my cultivation base wasn’t competitive enough for the Heaven Gate trial, and thus bestowed the Blood Spirit Pearl upon me.”

“Your master has been guarding that thing the entire time,” said Feng Luo. “Back when it was created, your master was one of the major spell-casters and the Blood Spirit Pearl played an important role. With the pearl you can summon it from underground.”

After pondering the matter for a long time, Feng Luo took a deep breath and continued, “Little Tong, cast the spell. I want to see it.”

“Ahhh?!” Yu Tong was taken aback. “Are you sure? I think it’s better if we leave it be. If we actually awakened it, I’m afraid...”

“Don’t worry.” Feng Luo said. “We should be able to control it with the Blood Spirit Pearl. It’s almost a fact that our sect has been invaded by outsiders. Perhaps, while we are talking, more outsiders are swarming into our sect. In such a special moment, even if it were awakened, it won’t make the situation worse.

“As a matter of fact, if you could control it with the Blood Spirit Pearl, we might be able to use it to turn the situation around!” Feng Luo’s eyes glittered with bright light.

Shock could be seen on Hong Can’s face as he said, “Feng Luo, are

you talking about that thing your sect acquired from another realm via our sect?”

Feng Luo nodded and said, “Yeah, exactly.”

Hong Can continued, “Didn’t your sect say that it was a terrible purchase and since that thing had run out of life force, it would never awaken again?”

“That’s true,” Feng Luo replied.

“So what’s the matter now?” Hong Can asked. “Did that thing make those sounds just now?”

“Actually, I don’t know what’s going on,” Feng Luo said with an embarrassed look on his face.

Intrigued, Nie Tian turned to Li Fan and asked, “What are they talking about?”

Li Fan shook his head as he also had no idea of what they were talking about.

At that moment, An Shiyi, who was standing beside Nie Tian, turned her head and said, “Aside from the numerous forbidden spells that the Blood sect disciples practice, they have another special technique, which is that they can create Blood Demons with different vessels. The vessel can be a human body or a body of other race. As long as the creature hasn’t lost all its life force, they

can use their secret magics to refine it and turn it into a Blood Demon that only answers their commands.

“I’m guessing there’s a Blood Demon hidden underground.

“It’s just that it seems that this Blood Demon isn’t fully refined and awakened. Otherwise, people from the Blood sect would have used it to fight the invading outsiders already.

“That’s probably the case.” Li Fan agreed.

With an approving expression in his eyes, he looked at An Shiyi and said, “If you ever decide to leave the Spiritual Treasure sect, you’re welcome to join the Cloudsoaring sect. Our sect isn’t that complicated. If you come to our sect, I promise that you won’t need to worry about others undermining you or forcing you to do anything.”

With these words, Li Fan intentionally shot a glance at Qiu Heng, who just arrived.

Finally catching up to the crowd, Qiu Heng didn’t hear their conversation about the Blood Demon, but he heard Li Fan’s last sentence.

He, who was already in a bad mood, let out a snort but didn’t say a word.

He was smart enough to realize that due to his previous

statements and behavior, almost everyone currently had a rather low opinion of him.

He knew that if he dared to confront Li Fan at this moment, the chances were that he would become a target of public criticism again.

Therefore, he chose to bear Li Fan's insinuation.

"Many thanks!" An Shiyi bowed gracefully towards Li Fan and said sincerely, "Sure, if the day ever comes when I run into walls everywhere in the Spiritual Treasure sect and I have to leave, I'll consider joining the Cloudsoaring sect."

"You should know that betraying your sect is a serious crime!" Qiu Heng said coldly.

"I'll have my master ask for senior Fang Hui's approval first." Nie Tian interrupted and said. "I trust that he'll give face to my master."

Upon hearing these words, Qiu Heng's face turned even grimmer.

It was known to all that Wu Ji and Fang Hui were sworn friends, and Fang Hui's status in the Spiritual Treasure sect was even higher than the sectmaster's.

If Wu Ji personally asked for her, Fang Hui would definitely

grant him the favor, which would make the process of An Shiyi joining the Cloudsoaring sect well-reasoned and smooth.

“Okay. Let me try.” Yu Tong’s voice echoed out.

At that moment, persuaded by Feng Luo, Yu Tong seemed a bit nervous as she took out the Blood Spirit Pearl from her bracelet of holding.

As soon as she held out the Blood Spirit Pearl, the entire valley was illuminated by the bright blood-colored light, as if someone had painted the valley with blood.

Numerous blood shadows could be seen within the Blood Spirit Pearl. They constantly shifted their position as if they were starting some kind of mechanism.

Yu Tong sat down on the ground and cupped the Blood Spirit Pearl with two hands as she used her psychic awareness to communicate with it.

After some time, numerous blood-colored threads suddenly shot out of the pearl before soon penetrating into the ground.

In the next moment, loud, scary rumbling sounds echoed out in the originally silent valley, and the dried-up stone ponds started to rapidly shift to the side, clearing out the center of the valley.

CRACKLE!

One after another, numerous gigantic stones seemed to be manipulated by a certain unknown power and rose up from under the ground, soon leaving a deep hole that was almost a hundred meters wide.

As soon as the stones rose up, an intense, bloody aura filled the air.

Upon catching a whiff of the aura, Feng Luo and Yu Tong both had intoxicated expressions on their faces, as if they could draw power from it.

On the other hand, everyone who wasn't from the Blood sect frowned and seemed disgusted upon smelling the bloody aura.

Only Nie Tian seemed to not be bothered by the pungent smell.

Perhaps it was because he had absorbed Yu Tong's blood strings and merged them with his own blood during their fight in the Green Illusion dimension.

Hong Can from the Hell sect stepped closer to the huge hole and, at first glance of what was under there, he exclaimed, "It's indeed that thing!"

The others also moved closer to the edge of the huge hole and looked down into it with curious expressions on their faces.

In the middle of the huge hole lay a skeleton that was more than thirty meters long.

There wasn't a single piece of skin or flesh to be seen on the pale-gray bones. However, a dense network of fine blood vessels could be seen on each and every bone, within which blood seemed to be flowing slowly.

A giant, grayish-brown heart was still beating inside of the ribcage.

The previous strange sounds must have come from this heart.

Aside from the fact that it was exceptionally large, the structure of the skeleton was almost the same as a human's. However, several sharp bones seemed to have grown out of its back and pierced into the bottom of the deep hole.

"A Bone Giant!!" Shi Hang's expression flickered as he hastily asked, "What level was it at before your sect got it?"

"The eighth level," Feng Luo replied.

Shi Hang from the Mystic Mist sect was flabbergasted. "Dear lord! How did you have the audacity to turn it into a Blood Demon?"

The strength of an eighth bloodline level Bone Giant was equal to that of a Soul realm human Qi warrior. However, the strongest Qi

warriors in the entire Realm of Flame Heaven were only in the Profound realm.

If the Blood sect managed to turn it into a Blood Demon, but lost control of it, the Bone Blood Demon it became would very likely destroy the entire Realm of Flame Heaven!

Chapter 191: Life Transfer

“Don’t worry. It’s still a failed project.” With a calm expression on his face, Feng Luo urged everyone not to get too close to it and then turned to Hong Can and explained, “Normally speaking, the Blood Demons we create are slightly weaker than they were when they were alive. Even though this Bone Giant once was at the eighth level, at the most, it would only reach the seventh level if we ever manage to refine it successfully.

“The fighting power of a seventh level Blood Demon would be equal to a Profound realm Qi warrior. Therefore, even if it is awakened and somehow escapes from our hands, our sectmaster would be able to overtake it.”

Hong Can frowned and said, “I hope you’re right.”

“I’ll get down there and have a look!” Very carefully, Feng Luo jumped off of the edge of the huge hole and landed right next to the Bone Giant.

The Bone Giant was still emitting an intense bloody aura and upon a closer look, blood was indeed flowing within the numerous, fine veins that could be seen on every bone.

BOOM!

Another vigorous heartbeat echoed out from within the Bone Giant’s heart, startling everyone who had been looking on by the edge of the huge hole.

Nie Tian's expression also slightly flickered.

Every time the giant, gray heart of the Bone Giant beat, Nie Tian's heart accelerated with it, as if his heart was influenced by it.

He unleashed a wisp of his psychic awareness to examine the Bone Giant.

He found that its whole body was emitting an extremely strong aura of flesh and blood, and because of that he could feel the terrifying power that was hiding within this huge body that looked like a skeleton.

However, for unknown reasons, even though the Bone Giant's heart was beating, there were no signs of it awakening.

Feng Luo looked into the Bone Giant's round eye sockets and found that there were two dark-green, lifeless jewels.

He circled around the Bone Giant before he unleashed a ray of bloody light, and upon contact with the Bone Giant, the light immediately bounced back as several rays of faint light.

Then, he climbed onto the Bone Giant's body and approached its chest area.

When he arrived, with rapt attention, he looked at the grayish

brown, huge heart that was surrounded by numerous rib bones.

After some time, he shook his head and said, “Still no signs of life power.”

“Life power?” Nie Tian was surprised and turned to Li Fan and asked, “I can sense that that Bone Giant is emanating strong fluctuations of flesh and blood. Is it only because it lacks life power that it can’t be awakened?”

“Yes, you’re right.” Li Fan let out a sigh as he looked at him with a meaningful gaze and said, “Your master’s time is about to come to an end. It’s the life power that determines one’s life span. So even if he still has a vigorous aura of flesh and blood inside of him, he will die anyways when his life energy runs out.

“It could be the case for this Bone Giant. Even though it’s wreathed in a formidable aura of flesh and blood, since it has been drained of its life force, it can’t be truly awakened.

“Life power is an extremely complicated energy. Just like the soul, it is another fundamental thing that separates all living creatures from the dead, so in case you run out of either of the two, that would mean you’re dead.”

“Oh, really...” Nie Tian rubbed his chin as his mind drifted away.

He had a faint feeling that the part of his bloodline power that he had yet to awaken was none other than the life power.

Even though he knew nothing of the life power, he had a feeling that his bloodline power would make his lifespan significantly longer than that of common human Qi warriors.

This meant that as long as he worked hard with his cultivation, he wouldn't need to face the problem that his master did.

And he wouldn't need to worry that he would die of age before his cultivation base could advance to the next stage.

Standing on the Bone Giant's rib cage, Feng Luo shook his head and said with a helpless look on his face, "What a pity. Life power is one of the most mysterious and profound powers in this world. This Bone Giant basically has every necessary thing but life power. If there's life power that we can use to stimulate it and vest it with new life force, I assume that we'll be able to actually awaken it.

"With the Blood Spirit Pearl, we'll be able to control it and use it to fight the invading outsiders.

"If we can do that, it will be like adding another Profound realm expert to our side, which could potentially change the situation over at the Blood sect."

With these words, Feng Luo lept out of the deep hole and was about to tell Yu Tong to use the Blood Spirit Pearl to reseal the hole with the huge stones.

After all, without life power, even though there was a slight anomaly in the Bone Giant's heartbeat, they wouldn't be able to truly awaken it.

He didn't want to waste more time in this place.

BOOM!

At that very moment, a heaven-shaking, earth-shattering sound echoed out from the Blood sect's direction.

Feng Luo's expression flickered as he looked towards the source of the sound with rapt attention and discovered that numerous clusters of blackish-purple demon Qi were descending from the heavens and converging on the Blood sect.

He could even vaguely see the outsiders figures and hear the outsiders' roars from within those demon Qi clusters.

"The grand Blood formation has probably been breached!" Yu Tong's face turned pale with fright as she hastily said. "We have to get over as fast as possible. The breaching of the grand formation means that outsiders are now able to roam about in the sect without any restrictions. We have to stop them!"

Everyone else had noticed the grim expressions on Yu Tong and Feng Luo's faces.

Qiu Heng from the Spiritual Treasure sect shrugged, his eyes

filled with fear and reluctance.

He had anticipated that a huge upheaval would strike the Blood sect, but after hearing that the Blood sect's grand spell formation was torn open, he felt increasingly uneasy.

Various expressions flashing across his face, he pondered whether he should get away while he still had the chance.

“Dammit!” Feng Luo said with a begrudging tone. “If we can somehow awaken and manipulate the Bone Giant, we would undoubtedly provide vital assistance to my sect!”

Nie Tian's eyes shone with a bright light. “All it lacked was life power...”

An idea suddenly came to him: even though he hadn't fully awakened his life power, there might be some of it in his blood!

It occurred to him that he had been able to completely heal the numerous puncture wounds on his body soon after his fight, not leaving a single scar.

Compared to normal humans, his healing ability was frighteningly exceptional.

He was certain that it had something to do with the life power that was hiding deep within his blood.

He believed that only the mysterious life power would be able to achieve that.

Therefore, since his blood carried life power, if he could somehow put his blood into the Bone Giant's grayish brown heart, he might be able to provide it with the only thing it lacked and turn it into the Blood Demon that the Blood sect had been racking their brains to create for years.

Even if it could only be awakened for a short period of time, as long as Yu Tong could control it, they would still inflict serious damage to the outsiders!

“Wait a moment!” With these thoughts in mind, Nie Tian stopped Feng Luo and under everyone's confused gazes, he jumped into the deep hole in the ground.

Expression flickering, Yu Tong, who was going to use the Blood Spirit Pearl to reseal the huge hole, said angrily, “What the hell are you doing? What wicked plans do you have now?!”

“Nie Tian! What are you doing?” Li Fan also called out to him.

Jiang Lingzhu and An Shiyi were also surprised by Nie Tian's behavior and wondered what he was going to do this time.

Face dead serious, Feng Luo shouted, “Get out of there now!”

However, Nie Tian completely ignored their urging and rapidly climbed onto the Bone Giant's body. Seconds later, he arrived at its chest area where Feng Luo had been moments ago.

Under his feet was the Bone Giant's huge, grayish-brown heart.

"Give me some time." Face grim, Nie Tian took out a dagger from his bracelet of holding and sliced open the tip of his right middle finger.

He held it down right above the giant heart and let his blood drip onto it.

PLOP! PLOP! PLOP! PLOP!

One after another, the blood drops dripped onto the heart, and as soon as they did, the heart rapidly absorbed them like a dry sponge.

After absorbing several dozen drops of Nie Tian's blood, the heart started beating at a frequency much higher than before.

Furthermore, the Blood Demon's dark-green, lifeless eyes started to flicker with a faint light.

At that moment, Nie Tian felt some discomfort as it seemed that he had lost a significant amount of his flesh and blood essence.

He stopped and looked down at the Blood Demon, eyes brimming with anticipation.

WHOOSH!

A blood shadow that was significantly bigger than the others suddenly appeared within Yu Tong's Blood Spirit Pearl.

“Bone Blood Demon!” Yu Tong exclaimed with an disbelieving expression on her face.

“You’ve awakened the Bone Blood Demon!” Eyes wide, Feng Luo looked at Nie Tian with a flabbergasted expression on his face, as he was terrified by Nie Tian’s achievement.

Chapter 192: Awakening!

The light that shone out of the Bone Blood Demon's bizarre-looking eyes made everyone present nervous and uneasy.

Cupped by Yu Tong's slender fingers, a blood figure that was significantly larger than the others appeared within the Blood Spirit Pearl, which clearly had a connection with the Bone Blood Demon.

There was no need for Feng Luo and Yu Tong to say anything; everyone else realized that the Bone Blood Demon was gradually awakening.

Feng Luo had stated that the only thing that had been keeping the Bone Giant from awakening was that it lacked life power, and only by solving that problem would they be able to restore life to it and turn it into a Bone Blood Demon.

However, just by dripping some of his own blood onto the giant's heart, Nie Tian managed to restart its heart and restore it to an awakened state!

As everyone looked towards Nie Tian, their eyes were full of disbelief, as they now found Nie Tian unfathomable.

As Nie Tian climbed out of the deep hole and returned to Li Fan's side, Li Fan asked with a low and serious voice, "What did you do? How come you were able to awaken the Bone Blood Demon with your own blood?"

Both Jiang Lingzhu and An Shiyi also looked at him from the side, their eyes filled with curiosity.

Further to his side, Yu Tong, who was still holding the Blood Spirit Pearl with her hands, also had a strange look in her devilish, yet beautiful eyes.

At that moment, Nie Tian suddenly came to realize that he might have behaved a bit too rashly, and now felt regretful.

Originally, the secret within his bloodline was only known to Hua Mu. Even he didn't know much about it himself.

Perhaps it was because he was too eager to test out the mysteries of his bloodline, or to reverse the situation that the Realm of Flame Heaven was in, that he didn't think too much before dripping his own blood into the Bone Blood Demon's heart.

He didn't expect that his blood would actually infuse the Bone Blood Demon with new life power, and now it actually showed signs of awakening.

He realized that its awakening was great news to the Blood sect.

However, he had ignored the fact that he might unveil the secret regarding his bloodline by doing that.

After a brief hesitation, Nie Tian explained, “Well, I was taken to a mysterious palace during the three months that I was gone, where it grew fruits that contained rich life power. I ate one of them. And afterwards, I felt as if I had been vested with another kind of power.

“However, I soon found myself losing the new power bit by bit. So I figured it won’t be long before I lose it completely anyway. I might as well try to awaken the Bone Blood Demon by giving it some of my blood. After all, that life power didn’t belong to me and didn’t seem to do me any good.

“I didn’t expect that it would actually work. I was surprised, too.”

Upon hearing Nie Tian’s words, Hong Can’s expression flickered as he said, “Don’t tell me that you ate a Fruit of Life?”

“What?” Nie Tian went blank for a moment.

He was surprised that Hong Can took his falsehood so seriously and actually thought of this kind of fruit. He found it very amusing. “It must have been the Fruit of Life that I ate!”

Hong Can took a deep breath and with a incomparably serious expression he said, “I heard that the Fruits of Life grows on a Tree of Life.

And by eating one Fruit of Life, any living creature would be able

to greatly enhance their life power and lengthen their lifespan by a great extent!

“For example, your master Senior Wu has been troubled by his lifespan problem, since without further replenishment of his life span, he won’t be able to advance into the Soul realm before his time runs out.

“If he can get a Fruit of Life, he would be able to extend his lifespan for another several hundred years. With the newly acquired time, given his profound wisdom, he would undoubtedly make new understandings and step into the Soul realm!

“However, the Fruits of Life are too rare in the Domain of the Falling Stars, much less the Realm of Flame Heaven. They are merely a legend to us.”

Then, Hong Can said with a envious tone, “Kid, you are truly so damn lucky that you even got to eat a Fruit of Life in the Heaven Gate trial! It was the life power in the Fruit of Life that dispersed into your blood, and by dripping your blood onto the Bone Giant’s heart, you infused it with life force and awakened it.

All the others fell into an uproar upon hearing that Nie Tian had eaten a mysterious treasure called the Fruit of Life. Each one of them had an envious expression on their face.

“The Fruit of Life?!”

“He actually had a Fruit of Life?!”

“This kid can’t get any luckier, can he?!”

“With one Fruit of Life, he would gain another several hundred years of life! With that large amount of time, if he doesn’t give up cultivating, he will eventually reach the peak of cultivation.”

“Wu Ji sure is a perfect judge of talent!”

“Dammit!” Qiu Heng from the Spiritual Treasure sect snarled in his heart. “He actually obtained a Fruit of Life?!”

“Uncle Feng! I, I’m afraid that I won’t be able to control it any more!” At that moment, Yu Tong’s voice suddenly echoed out, her Blood Spirit Pearl-holding hands shaking nonstop. She felt that soon she would be taken over by the violent fluctuations that originated from the Blood Spirit Pearl.

From the way she looked, it was as if the Blood Spirit Pearl had become as heavy as a mountain and she was about to drop it.

The sizable blood shadow in the Blood Spirit Pearl was madly twisting and wiggling, and it seemed that it wouldn’t be long before it broke out of the pearl.

Feng Luo’s face turned pale with fright as he instantly shifted to Yu Tong’s side. Without uttering a single word, he pressed his palm against Yu Tong’s back.

Nie Tian could vaguely see that numerous threads of blood-colored light flowed out of Feng Luo's palm and into Yu Tong's back.

However, it didn't seem that Yu Tong could better control the Blood Spirit Pearl even after receiving a supplement in her power. The blood shadow within was still madly stampeding, seemingly eager to break free of its confinement.

"Hmm?" At that moment, Nie Tian noticed that numerous light rays started to interweave within the Bone Blood Demon's pupils as they grew increasingly bright.

At the same time, the blood inside of the fine veins all over the Bone Blood Demon's body started to flow at a faster speed.

An extremely dangerous aura flowed out of the Bone Blood Demon and filled the air in the vicinity, making everyone observing from the edge of the hole tremble with fear.

After all, this Bone Blood Demon possessed the eighth level bloodline power. In case it was fully awakened, even though there would be a dip in its power, it would still be as powerful as a Profound realm human Qi warrior.

However, the strongest person among them all was only in the middle Greater Heaven stage.

If they ever lost control of the Bone Blood Demon, every one of them would be eliminated within one breath.

Feng Luo didn't stop passing his flesh power onto Yu Tong as he said, "Nie Tian, you are the one who bestowed life power upon the Bone Blood Demon. Why don't you think of way for us to make it follow our commands?" However, it seemed that it weren't going to solve the problem, and with Yu Tong's current strength, she wouldn't be able to bring the Bone Blood Demon under her control anyways.

Since he had witnessed Nie Tian work miracles more than one time during their Heaven Gate trial and that it was Nie Tian who had awakened the Bone Blood Demon, he counted on Nie Tian to turn the situation around.

"Me?" Nie Tian smiled bitterly. Not knowing a thing about the Blood sect's forbidden techniques, he racked his brains but still couldn't come up with a way to calm the Bone Blood Demon.

He could only send a wisp of his psychic awareness into the Bone Blood Demon's body and see if he could find something.

As soon as his psychic awareness left him, he was suddenly stricken by a strange feeling.

He had a feeling that there was a discarnate soul in the surrounding heaven and earth, which seemed to be attracted to him.

Simultaneously, his heartbeat suddenly accelerated.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The Bone Blood Demon's madly beating heartbeat and Nie Tian's suddenly seemed to have synchronized at this moment!

The Bone Blood Demon, who had bones as sharp as blades protruding out of every joint, began to stir its limbs.

Before long, it gradually sat up straight and rose to its feet.

The few giant bone protrusions that had grown out of its back shone with a suffocating light. They seemed so hard and sharp that no shield or armor would be able to stop them.

All of a sudden, its dark-green, unfathomable eyes fixed on the Blood Spirit Pearl in Yu Tong's hands.

The discarnate soul in the Blood Spirit Pearl immediately flew out of the pearl and into its pupils.

WHOOSH!

In the next moment, the Bone Blood Demon that was at least thirty-meters tall abruptly jumped up into the air before landing right in front of Nie Tian with a loud crash.

Upon landing, its gigantic feet slightly sank into the ground filled with stones, as if they were as fragile as a piece of tofu in its presence.

Its dark-green eyes looked down on Nie Tian. From the look of it, it could only detect an aura on Nie Tian that made it feel comfortable.

The aura originated from the life power within Nie Tian's heart and the blood that was running throughout his body, and it was the same life power that had vested it with new life force and brought it back to life!

Upon seeing the discarnate soul flying out of the Blood Spirit Pearl and into the Bone Blood Demon, Nie Tian had a strange feeling that the monster that the Blood sect had spent countless efforts to refine only had a sense of recognition and dependency towards himself.

“Get away from it!” Li Fan's expression flickered as he called out. He grabbed Jiang Lingzhu with one hand and An Shiyi with another and pulled the two of them away from Nie Tian.

People from the other sects also had their eyes fixed on Nie Tian and the giant demon as they stepped back away from them.

“Nie Tian! What are you doing with our Bone Blood Demon?!” Yu Tong yelled at him, her eyes wide.

“Calm down!” Feng Luo held her and stopped her from rushing towards Nie Tian.

Chapter 193: Killing Machine!

At that moment, everyone could tell that even though the Blood sect had expended a lot of effort on this Bone Blood Demon, it seemed that it only recognized Nie Tian now.

It stepped to Nie Tian's side and stood still, as if it was his faithful guard.

Yu Tong burst into a rage; she knew perfectly well how much effort her sect had expended to refine this special Blood Demon.

When this Bone Giant with an eighth level bloodline power had been brought to the Blood sect, it had been considered a vital project through which they would be able to make a breakthrough in their demon refining techniques.

In the following years, the entire Blood sect had almost stretched their resources to the limit for this Bone Giant, including using all kinds of precious spiritual materials and countless barrels of spirit beast blood.

Several powerful demon refining experts of the Blood sect had worked day and night on the Bone Giant, even to the extent of neglecting their own cultivation.

However, it eventually ran out of life power anyways and failed to turn into a Blood Demon.

But after having expended endless hours and resources on it, the Blood sect hadn't completely given up on it and hoped that one day they would overcome the problem of its life power and thus awaken it and turn it into a powerful tool of the Blood sect.

Yu Tong never imagined that the Blood Demon that her sect had poured their heart and soul into would eventually end up in Nie Tian's pocket.

She found it almost impossible to accept!

BOOM!

It was at that moment that more loud sounds that shook the land and rocked mountains rang out from the direction of the Blood sect.

ROOOOAR!

Immediately after that, an ear-piercing roar seemed to ring out from the same location.

Faces filled with terror, everyone turned around to look.

Moments later, they saw a blackish-purple, ten-meter-tall outsider demon charging towards them along with a mass of demon Qi.

Even though the outsider wasn't able to travel in the air, every lunge it took could cover several dozen meters.

It closed in rapidly on Nie Tian and the others while holding a gigantic spiked club with its veiny, sturdy arms. As it neared, it unleashed more and more demon Qi into its surroundings.

It seemed that the outsider had sensed fluctuations of Qi and blood in this area and, realizing that there were humans in the area, immediately rushed here.

As soon as it appeared, the constantly spreading demon Qi in the sky moved along with it and descended towards Nie Tian and the others like clusters of blackish-purple clouds.

Upon seeing the outsider, Qiu Heng's face immediately turned ghastly. "An outsider demon!"

He subconsciously flinched and wanted to get away from this place as soon as possible, since he didn't want to fight the fierce outsider to the death.

"Prepare to fight!" Hong Can roared.

Nie Tian instantly felt the tension. His gaze was fixed on the approaching outsider as he secretly readied himself for the upcoming fight. A strong killing intent could be seen within his eyes.

As soon as he focused his killing intent on the outsider, the Bone Blood Demon beside him dashed towards it without even the slightest hesitation.

SHEW!

The thirty-meter tall Bone Blood Demon suddenly shot out like an arrow, and arrived in front of the outsider in a flash.

ROOOOAR!

Upon seeing the Bone Blood Demon gaining on it at such a fast speed, the outsider let out a strange shriek.

However, its shriek didn't last very long before it suddenly came to a stop.

At that moment, the Bone Blood Demon's five, razor-sharp fingers had already pierced into the outsider's heart.

The Bone Blood Demon had punctured the outsider's heart with one strike.

Its dark-green pupils glittered with bright light, but not a trace of expression could be seen on its bony face.

Afterwards, it lifted its arm with ease and raised the outsider high into the air.

Then, it reached out its other bony hand and thrust it into the outsider's abdomen. After that, it pulled both its arms to the sides and ripped the ten-meter long outsider body in half.

Blackish-purple blood immediately spewed out of the outsider and poured down like a rain, filling the space they were in.

Bathed in the rain of blood, the Bone Blood Demon's dark, deep eyes shone brighter and brighter.

Meanwhile, the blood falling onto its body rapidly seeped into its bones and entered the fine veins and meridians that could be found on every piece of bone.

The aura that the Bone Blood Demon radiated into the surroundings grew increasingly bloody and vigorous, as if it had just obtained new power from the outsider it just killed.

CRACKLE!

The dead outsider's body dropped to the sides. Standing in a pool of blackish-purple outsider blood, the Bone Blood Demon's giant, bony feet seemed to be still absorbing the blood.

Numerous spots that glittered with a dark luster floated to the surface of the blood pool before soon disappearing into the Bone Blood Demon's vein-filled foot bones.

A wave of even stronger aura rippled out of the Bone Blood Demon, and when it spread to everyone around it, each and every one of them had frightened looks in their eyes.

Feng Luo from the Blood sect stared blankly at the Bone Blood Demon and said, “This... this is unbelievable! It can actually use blood refining techniques to absorb flesh power from its enemies’ blood! I don’t think the other Blood Demons our sect created had this kind of skill, did they?”

Yu Tong was also flabbergasted as she said, “It’s at least two levels higher than any other Blood Demon that our sect has created. My master and many others performed numerous experiments on it. I’m afraid that this Blood Demon will...” Yu Tong’s voice trembled and her eyes were filled with fear and worry.

“I can’t believe it managed to tear apart an outsider so effortlessly. This Bone Blood Demon is truly awesome!” Nie Tian was also secretly shocked.

Since there was still a subtle connection between his psychic awareness and the Bone Blood Demon, he could faintly sense that ever since the Bone Blood Demon had been awakened, its life power was on the decline.

It seemed that the several dozen drops of blood were far from enough to provide it with life power and lifespan over a long period of time.

He had the feeling that it wouldn't be very long before the Bone Blood Demon ran out of its life power and fell into a deep slumber.

However, upon a brief examination of himself, Nie Tian found that he had already lost quite a bit of his energy.

After all, he was only in the Lesser Heaven stage and his bloodline power hadn't been fully awakened yet.

The life power in his blood was still quite faint, far from enough to power a creature that had run out of its lifespan, even if he were willing to offer more of his own blood.

After realizing this point, Nie Tian said, "Senior Feng Luo! I'm afraid this Bone Blood Demon won't remain active for a long time. I think it's slowly burning its life power away. Let's bring it to the Blood sect and let it kill as many outsiders as it can!"

Feng Luo snapped out of his thoughts and said, "You're right! Follow me!"

He even forgot to say anything to the others, including Yu Tong, as he dashed straight towards the sect gate of the Blood sect.

He also knew in his heart that the life power Nie Tian had given the Bone Blood Demon probably wasn't enough to keep it active forever.

Furthermore, the devastating power the Bone Blood Demon had

displayed make him fearful and excited at the same time. Therefore, he was very eager to use it to kill as many outsiders as they could before it fell into a deep slumber again.

WHOOSH!

At his fastest speed, Nie Tian dashed towards the Blood sect after Feng Luo.

The more than thirty meters tall Bone Blood Demon only needed to move its bony legs at a low speed to keep up with the two of them.

Even though Nie Tian didn't send out commands of any sort, it ran after Nie Tian, simply following his aura.

Since its soul wasn't as complete as those of living beings, it wasn't very intelligent, and it was basically only following its instincts.

After Nie Tian and Feng Luo had left, the rest of the group remained standing in their original location, aghast and yet to recover from the overwhelming scenes.

The Bone Blood Demon had killed the outsider so quickly that they didn't even realize it when the fight was over and the outsider was torn in half.

The fact that the Bone Blood Demon killed their enemy and

followed Nie Tian made it clear to them that it answered Nie Tian's commands.

Having control over such a powerful creature, Nie Tian, who was only in the Lesser Heaven stage, undoubtedly had a fearful killing machine at his command.

With this weapon of mass destruction, Nie Tian would have become invincible if the Realm of Flame Heaven hadn't been invaded by outsiders.

If Nie Tian eventually brought this Bone Blood Demon to the Cloudsoaring sect, their strength would be greatly enhanced and they would easily surpass all the other sects, with the Hell sect as the only exception.

“Nie Tian! Give back our Bone Blood Demon!”

Seeing that the Bone Blood Demon had effortlessly torn apart a giant outsider and sped away after Nie Tian, Yu Tong was so outraged that she felt like puking blood.

Then, she also sped away in the direction that Nie Tian had left in.

She still couldn't accept the fact that Nie Tian had so easily taken away something that her sect had spent years of effort and countless resources on.

“Let’s go! Follow Nie Tian!” Hong Can didn’t bother with Yu Tong’s behavior, but rather his spirits were lifted after seeing what the Bone Blood Demon had done, and thus urged everyone else to move out.

“Move out! To the Blood sect!” The formidable power of the Bone Blood Demon seemed to have suddenly given everyone enough courage to not be afraid of the invading outsiders.

Chapter 194: We Are Lucky to Have You

WHOOSH!

An outsider covered in black scales, with a horn growing out of its jaw, suddenly popped up from behind a mountain.

Without any hesitation, it rushed towards Feng Luo with a fierce roar.

As it did, clusters of purple-black demon Qi shot towards him as well, like plummeting meteors.

Only moments later, Feng Luo was submerged by the demon Qi. He formed a shield of blood-colored light to hold off the attack of the demon Qi.

He knew very well that once the demon Qi found its way into his body, he would lose consciousness and fall victim to the outsider.

The outsider that had black scales from head to toe laughed in a sinister fashion while the curved horn that grew out of its jaw shone with purple light.

Nie Tian, who was not far behind Feng Luo, saw what happened and, pointing at the outsider, issued a command to the Bone Blood Demon beside him. “Go!”

As soon as he focused his killing intent on the outsider, the Bone Blood Demon made it its target.

The Bone Blood Demon, who was almost twice as tall as the outsider, strode towards the outsider, and before it could even respond, the Bone Blood Demon had already reached out its hands, which resembled two unstoppable blades and thrust them towards the outsider's chest.

FIZZ!

Before its bony hands reached the outsider, numerous beams of blood-colored light shot out of its hands, blowing off the black scales that had been covering the outsider's chest.

The outsider's torso immediately became a bloody mess, and without any protection, its blackish-purple flesh was shown.

Screaming, the outsider attempted to grab the Bone Blood Demon and bite it with its teeth. However, with a heave, the Bone Blood Demon once again ripped the outsider apart with its bare hands.

As soon as the outsider's blood splattered onto its body, its dark eyes began to flicker with a strange light, as if it were trying to use the Blood sect's blood refining magic to extract and absorb the essence within the outsider's blood.

The raging demon Qi gradually dispersed and, enveloped by a

blood-colored light shield, Feng Luo noticed that the Bone Blood Demon had already torn apart the outsider. With gratitude in his eyes, he briefly nodded towards Nie Tian.

He was well aware that the level of the outsider seemed to be even higher than his.

If it weren't for the fact that Nie Tian had commanded the Bone Blood Demon to help him, he probably would have been suffocated by the demon Qi and soon fallen prey to the outsider.

“Nie Tian! Give our Blood Demon back!” Yu Tong screamed as she arrived in a blood-red dress that brought out her curvy frame.

“Not now, Little Tong!” Feng Luo let out a snort. With a weary expression on his face, he said, “We need the Bone Blood Demon to save our sect. We couldn't have awakened it without Nie Tian and arguing about who it belongs to is not our priority. We should consider ourselves lucky now that we can use it to help us.

“Especially in this time of peril!”

His tone grew increasingly stern as he continued, “Huge calamities have stricken the entire Realm of Flame Heaven. If my speculations are correct, every sect is under attack as we speak!

“The fact that Nie Tian awakened the Blood Demon is not only the Blood sect's fortune, but it's also the entire Realm of Flame Heaven's fortune!”

“That’s right.” Hong Can from the Hell sect also arrived at that time.

He leaned in and said, “Yu Tong, I hope you can put aside your grudge against Nie Tian for the time being. At least wait until the Realm of Flame Heaven is safe. Everyone in the Realm of Flame Heaven needs him, none more so than your sect!”

Zou Yi from the Ghost sect also jumped in and said, “Hear me out, Yu Tong. You have to understand what’s better for your sect and make the right choice.”

They all urged Yu Tong to look at the bigger picture and temporarily put away her personal feelings.

Standing off to the side, Nie Tian rubbed his nose and smiled, not saying a word.

Seeing that Nie Tian looked rather proud of himself, Yu Tong grew even more angry. However, facing everyone’s urging and scolding, she could only bear with it for now.

As a matter of fact, she never expected that she would end up in the position that she was currently in.

Not only had Nie Tian repeatedly defeated her in the Green Illusion dimension and the Scarlet Flame Mountain Range, he had even daringly taken advantage of her. This had made her want to

kill him at any cost.

Originally, Feng Luo was her solid backer.

However, now that the Realm of Flame Heaven was going through a difficult time, and due to Nie Tian's importance, Feng Luo had actually taken Nie Tian's side. Even the Ghost sect and the Hell sect had done the same.

She was so enraged that she wanted to kill herself.

“Alright, alright. Just don't do it again.” Feng Luo saw Yu Tong's expression, so he stopped berating her and said a few words to lighten her mood. He turned to Nie Tian and said, “Keep doing what you just did and unleash the Bone Blood Demon as soon as you see more outsiders. Since we don't know how long the Bone Blood Demon will remain active, we'd better make every second count and inflict as much damage on the outsiders as we can!”

“Okay, I will.” Nie Tian nodded.

Hong Can chuckled as he expressed his admiration towards Nie Tian, “I realized that you were a special lad when we were in the Heaven Gate trial. I believe that you'll have your position in the Realm of Flame Heaven one day.”

“I'm flattered. Thank you!” Nie Tian replied, but he didn't take Hong Can's words to his heart.

“Shall we continue?” Feng Luo asked.

Nie Tian nodded. “Let’s go!”

With these words, Feng Luo once again moved out. Nie Tian and the Bone Blood Demon followed along closely.

After that, they ran into a few more outsiders on their way to the Blood sect’s sect gate.

With no exception, all of them died by the Bone Blood Demon’s hands and afterwards, it used blood refining techniques to absorb the power from their blood.

Even though the Bone Blood Demon’s life power was still on the decline, the aura it released into the surroundings grew increasingly terrifying.

Before long, Nie Tian and the others arrived at the Blood sect’s sect gate.

Standing a certain distance from the gate, they saw that the entire Blood sect, which was surrounded by mountains from every direction, had already been submerged in dense demon Qi, and so they couldn’t get a clear view of what was going on inside the gate.

However, the outsiders’ angry roars constantly echoed out of the cloud of demon Qi, and they could vaguely see a handful of gigantic figures ramming the sect gate.

Standing in the middle of the road that led to the Blood sect, Feng Luo looked deeply at the demon Qi-wreathed sect gate.

The road ahead had already been blocked by dense demon Qi. Therefore, if they wanted to get into the Blood sect, they would have to go into the demon Qi.

However, he knew that the demon Qi, which could serve as the outsiders' power source, was very much deadly to human Qi warriors.

Even if they didn't have to fight outsiders in the demon Qi and only needed to pass the demon Qi-covered area, they would still have to spend plenty of spiritual power to resist the demon Qi.

As soon as they walked into the demon Qi, it would be very likely that their senses would become impaired and their psychic awareness become dulled.

ROOOOAR!

Another outsider roar rang out from the depths of the demon Qi-covered area, causing everyone's face to turn grim.

"What should we do?" Zou Yi from the Ghost sect unleashed his psychic awareness to probe the demon Qi-covered area in front of them.

Moments later, his expression flickered and said, “There are at least seven outsiders roaming about a hundred meters ahead of us, and every one of them is at a rather high level. If we choose to go into the demon Qi, there’s a chance that we will be torn into shreds and devoured by those outsiders before we can even get to the sect gate.”

Meanwhile, Nie Tian didn’t say a word, but also sent his psychic awareness into the raging demon Qi ahead of him.

He closed his eyes to focus solely on scanning the demon Qi-covered area. However, as soon as his psychic awareness entered, his originally sharp senses and his ability to detect life auras dropped significantly.

While his psychic awareness swam about in a sea of demon Qi, he could feel a clear and strong obstruction.

Even still, after extending his psychic awareness for some time, he managed to detect the violent aura of a living being.

“Here’s one!” As soon as he located the life aura, he issued the command.

Almost simultaneously, the Bone Blood Demon locked on the target and dashed into the demon Qi.

To Nie Tian’s surprise, the Bone Blood Demon seemed to be completely unaffected by the demon Qi and didn’t even need to

spend the least bit of energy resisting it.

In the blink of an eye, the thirty-meter tall Bone Blood Demon disappeared into the dense demon Qi.

While focusing his psychic awareness on the outsider he had just located, Nie Tian waved to Feng Luo and the others and said, “Hold on. I’ll have the Bone Blood Demon secure us a path. I’ll try my best to locate every outsider in that area and command the Bone Blood Demon to kill them.”

“That’s good.” Feng Luo felt a bit relieved. “If the Blood sect somehow lives through this calamity, our entire sect will be in your debt, Nie Tian. And when the Realm of Flame Heaven is once again stable, you’re welcome to come visit our sect as a honored guest, even if the confrontation between the seven sects is reestablished.

“I can give you my word that no disciple of the Blood sect will treat you as their enemy!”

“That’s very generous of you,” Nie Tian said with a brief smile. With these words, he focused his mind on locating the outsiders within the demon Qi.

ROOOOOOAR!

It wasn’t very long before a bloodcurdling scream rang out from the depths of the demon Qi.

The outsider that Nie Tian had located just now had already died by the Bone Blood Demon's hands.

Chapter 195: High-Tier Outsider

Everyone heard the scream and knew that it meant the Bone Blood Demon had taken out another outsider.

“Good job!” Hong Can couldn’t conceal the elated expression on his face. “If you can kill off every outsider in the demon Qi, then even if we can’t make the demon Qi disperse, we will have a better chance making it to the sect gate of the Blood sect.”

Feng Luo sounded excited as he urged Nie Tian, “Keep going, Nie Tian! Since we don’t know the situation over at the sect gate, we’d better command the Bone Blood Demon to kill as many outsiders as we can!”

Even though Yu Tong had always considered Nie Tian as her sworn enemy, she cast a gaze of anticipation towards Nie Tian at that moment.

Nie Tian nodded and closed his eyes again, using his psychic awareness to scan the demon Qi-covered area for new targets.

Before long, his psychic awareness discovered and locked onto another vigorous life force belonging to an outsider.

As soon as he issued the command with his mind, the Bone Blood Demon made another murderous move in the dense, sight-blocking demon Qi.

Seconds later, another miserable scream echoed out and the outsider he had just targeted was slaughtered.

Without saying a word, Nie Tian repeatedly sent out his psychic awareness to search the area for more outsiders.

One after another, more miserable shrieks rang out from within the demon Qi.

None of the outsiders survived the Bone Blood Demon's fatal attacks.

Zou Yi's face was filled with excitement as he said, "A sixth! Only one more to go! We'll have a clear path ahead after it's dead. Then we can try and walk into the demon Qi."

Everyone rubbed their hands together as they all assumed that the only remaining outsider would also die in a split second, just like the others had.

With excitement on their faces, they watched Nie Tian, waiting for him to lock his psychic awareness onto the seventh outsider.

Nie Tian took a deep breath. After sending out his psychic awareness to detect outsider auras several times in a row, he was already somewhat weary.

The demon Qi was like a turbulent sea, making every movement of his psychic awareness extremely taxing.

After all, he was only in the late Lesser Heaven stage. The level of refinement of his psychic power was far inferior to Zou Yi or Hong Can.

Having consuming his psychic power nonstop for such a long time, he already found it hard to concentrate and the sharpness of his perception had also greatly dropped.

Even still, he once again unleashed his psychic awareness into the demon Qi.

However, the moment his psychic awareness entered the demon Qi, he felt a bit dazed. Even though he could detect the existence of the outsider, whenever he attempted to lock onto it, it would always disappear without leaving a single trace.

After attempting for quite some time, he still couldn't accurately locate the outsider with his psychic awareness.

It seemed as if that outsider had realized what Nie Tian was trying to do and had been rapidly shifting its position within the demon Qi.

A short time later, Nie Tian opened his eyes and felt rather lightheaded.

“What’s wrong, Nie Tian?” Standing right next to him, An Shiyi said in a soft voice, concern written all over her delicate face.

“There no need to force yourself. Stop if you have to. You’ve already done a good job.”

Li Fan also saw his poor condition and said, “Yeah, leave it be if you can’t locate that last outsider. Your cultivation base is still rather low. If you continue to consume your psychic power, you’ll overburden yourself. Even if you manage to locate that outsider, you probably will be too weak to command the Bone Blood Demon to kill it.”

“How about you rest for a while?” said Jiang Lingzhu.

“We can’t afford to rest,” Feng Luo said with a bitter expression on his face. “Time is of the essence here. Our sect is in great danger. Plus, the Bone Blood Demon won’t stay active for a long time. We need to make the best out of every second it’s awake and command it to kill as many outsiders as we can.”

Hong Can from the Hell sect took out a medicinal pill and shoved it into Nie Tian’s hand as he said, “Nie Tian! Here’s a Soul Restoring Pill! It will help you replenish your psychic power within a short time.”

“Soul Restoring Pill?” Feng Luo seemed to suddenly come to a realization and took out three medicinal pills from his bracelet of holding. He handed them to Nie Tian and said, “I almost forgot. Here are some Soul Restoring Pills! Take them now and recover your psychic power as soon as you can, so that you can go ahead and finish off the one last outsider.”

“Sure!” Nie Tian saved the pleasantries and swiftly swallowed all four Soul Restoring Pills.

Feng Luo’s expression flickered as he called out, “Wait! You need to take them slowly!”

Li Fan and Hong Can were also shocked when they saw Nie Tian consume all four Soul Restoring Pills at once.

They also wanted stop him, but before they could say anything the pills were already down Nie Tian’s throat.

“Moron!” Jiang Lingzhu stamped her foot and said, “You’re only in the Lesser Heaven stage. One Soul Restoring Pill is more than enough to restore your psychic power!”

After swallowing all the Soul Restoring Pills, Nie Tian asked with his face filled with confusion, “Can I not take them all together? Don’t tell me that there are side effects.”

With a deep frown, Li Fan said, “The effect of four Soul Restoring Pills could be too strong for you. I’m afraid that your body won’t be able to take it. Furthermore, these Soul Restoring Pills are very valuable. It’s a huge waste that you took them all at once.”

“Nie Tian, steady yourself for the effect!” An Shiyi warned him.

“Ah, I see. You’re worried that the pills are too strong for me.” With a deep breath, Nie Tian sat down on the ground and focused

his mind on sensing the efficacy of the Soul Restoring Pills.

It wasn't very long before wisps of power were born in his abdomen, which rapidly followed his meridians up into his soul.

As Hong Can had said, the Soul Restoring Pills helped him rapidly recover his psychic power.

The moment those wisps of power entered his soul, he felt a huge boost in his psychic power.

The efficacy of the Soul Restoring Pills was even stronger and faster than the special energy that he had extracted from the energy balls in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace.

As more and more wisps of power merged into his soul, it only took a short while for him to be full of psychic power again.

However, more power wisps kept rising from his abdomen and swimming up to his soul.

Normally, since his soul was already brimming with psychic power, the process of more power crowding into his soul shouldn't be an enjoyable one.

Too much psychic power could overstretch his soul and cause many unpleasant changes.

For example, he could become muddleheaded, get overly excited, or even lose his mind.

However, Nie Tian sensed that after his soul was filled to the brim, the incoming wisps of psychic power naturally flowed into the seven fragmentary stars that hung high within his soul.

The seven fragmentary stars that he had obtained by channeling starlight into his soul in the Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace were emanating bright light, making his soul look somewhat mysterious and profound.

As more and more wisps of power swam into the fragmentary stars, they began to shine with an even more dazzling light.

It seemed as if they could take in an unlimited amount of power. Moments later, all the swimming wisps of power that the Soul Restoring Pills had generated disappeared into the seven fragmentary stars.

By the time Nie Tian could no longer felt the generation of more power from his abdomen, he noticed that the seven fragmentary stars had grown slightly bigger and he had a feeling that the energy they contained was now purer and more condensed.

As he refined and absorbed the four Soul Restoring Pills, everyone else gathered around him and watched him with strange expressions on their faces.

They didn't see even the slightest pained look or signs of struggle on Nie Tian's face. On the contrary, all they saw was enjoyment.

Everyone made a racket since they all deemed Nie Tian to be a strange young man with too many secrets.

“He actually absorbed all four Soul Restoring Pills?”

“He's only in the Lesser Heaven stage. How could he have taken in so much psychic power?”

“He's a freak!”

Hong Can also couldn't help but sigh, “No wonder people say Wu Ji is the best mentor in the Realm of Flame Heaven.”

At that moment, Nie Tian opened his eyes and, having recovered to his peak state, once again started scanning the area enveloped by the raging demon Qi.

This time, he could feel that his perception was greatly heightened.

Seconds later, he accurately located the outsider and locked onto it.

ROOOOAR!

All of a sudden, an outsider roar thundered out from the depths of the demon Qi.

In the next moment, a cold, wicked awareness rushed straight toward Nie Tian.

Standing by Nie Tian's side, Hong Can also detected the anomaly and called out, "It's a high-tier outsider!"

Chapter 196: Impression Overthrown

Nie Tian experienced a sudden, excruciating pain in his head. His body shuddered as he immediately retracted his psychic awareness.

By doing that, he lost track of the outsider he had just locked onto, and thus wasn't certain if the Bone Blood Demon would be able to locate it by relying on the brief moment that he had focused his killing intent on it.

At the same time, a gruesome, cold awareness seemed to have traced Nie Tian's psychic power back to his mind.

In his soul, the seven fragmentary stars suddenly began to shine with incomparable dazzling starlight.

The numerous rays of starlight were like sharp blades, continuously cutting the demon shadows that had been flying around in his soul into shreds.

Soon as the demon shadows disappeared, Nie Tian's headache disappeared with them.

Nie Tian opened his eyes and, looking into the demon Qi with his eyes filled with shock, he said, "That outsider is different from the other six!"

"Are you alright?" Li Fan asked.

Nie Tian nodded and answered, “I’m fine.”

A serious look could be seen in Hong Can’s eyes as he looked at Nie Tian.

After probing for a moment using his psychic power, he nodded, looking a bit surprised as he said, “You keep going beyond my anticipation, kid. That is a powerful, high-tier outsider. However, you somehow managed to remain unscathed under its psychic attack. Impressive.”

“High-tier outsider?” Nie Tian went blank.

Even his master Wu Ji didn’t know the outsiders as well as disciples from the Hell sect.

As the original residents of the Realm of Flame Heaven, those outsiders once were the rulers of this heaven and earth.

However, since it had already been far too long since the outsiders had dominated the Realm of Flame Heaven, of the seven sects in the Realm of Flame Heaven, only the Hell sect, who had imprisoned outsiders with the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation, knew a thing or two about them.

The reason behind it was that the Hell sect had been created by a grand Qi warrior who had taken part in the fierce fights between human Qi warriors and the outsider demons.

The other six sects, on the other hand, had been established after all the outsiders had been killed or driven out of the Realm of Flame Heaven.

Therefore, it was natural that they didn't know much about outsiders.

With a grim expression, Hong Can explained, "High-tier outsiders are different from the ordinary outsiders that we encountered earlier. High-tier outsiders aren't as big as the low-tier outsiders, but they are the nobles of the outsiders and lords of the low-tier outsiders. Every high-tier outsider possesses intelligence just as developed as us human Qi warriors.

"In addition to that, high-tier outsiders possess something we don't have: powerful bloodlines. Each one of them is born with miraculous powers and abilities running in their veins!

"Back when we beat the outsiders away from the Realm of Flame Heaven, those high-tier ones were the truly formidable enemies.

"When they knew they would inevitably lose the Realm of Flame Heaven, all the high-tier outsiders evacuated first while the low-tier outsiders kept fighting so as to cover their escape.

"That was why we didn't have a single high-tier outsider in the Demon Trapping Purgatory Formation.

“So I bet none of you have ever seen a high-tier outsider.”

With a stern look on his face, Hong Can continued, “Actually, I’ve anticipated that there would be high-tier outsiders pulling the strings now that they dared to come back to the Realm of Flame Heaven. However, I didn’t expect that a high-tier outsider would actually appear here, in the Blood sect.”

Nie Tian’s expression slightly changed, and everyone else’s heart also grew heavy after hearing how formidable those high-tier outsiders were.

“Low-tier outsiders are usually very big and physically strong, but they basically fight only because of their bloodthirsty nature. However, the high-tier outsiders are a whole other story. Not only are they intelligent and possess formidable bloodline power, but they even master various battling skills.

“Furthermore, only those High-tier outsiders know how to wield their soul power!”

Hong Can took a deep breath and stared into the demon Qi-covered area with a somewhat uneasy expression on his face. “From now on, I want everyone to be careful and brace yourself for what may come! That high-tier outsider is far more powerful and deadly than regular low-tier outsiders. There’s a fundamental difference between their strengths and that’s not something that can be defined by levels!”

WHOOSH!

A figure could be vaguely seen in the surging demon Qi.

It seemed that it had ditched Bone Blood Demon and come from the depths of the demon Qi-covered area to the edge of it.

Step by step, the figure walked out of the demon Qi and completely unveiled itself to the crowd.

It was about two-meters tall. Its skin was blackish-purple and its face actually resembled that of an exceedingly handsome human male's.

He had a well-built frame and was wearing a set of fine armor. From the faint smile hanging at the corner of his mouth, he didn't look very different from a human.

However, upon a closer look, Nie Tian discovered that his pupils and hair were all blackish-purple and he had two curved horns growing out of his forehead.

Furthermore, he had a tail that was about two meters long growing out of his posterior, which dragged on the ground as he stepped forward.

“Did you turn that Bone Giant into a Blood Demon?” He suddenly spoke, his voice sounding exotic and strange.

Even still, it was none other than human language that came out of his mouth.

Jiang Lingzhu's expression flickered as she exclaimed, "He can even speak our language?!"

Not only her, everyone else expect Hong Can stood aghast, looking at the high-tier outsider with eyes filled with disbelief.

The appearance of this high-tier outsider had completely overthrown their previous impression of the outsiders and made them realize that the outsider nobles were almost a different race from all the other outsider demons that they had ever seen.

CRACK!

The sound of bones piercing into the earth rang out from behind the high-tier outsider as the Bone Blood Demon's figure gradually grew clearer in the demon Qi.

Upon seeing the Bone Blood Demon slowly stepping out of the dense demon Qi, Nie Tian's uneasiness was lifted to some extent.

"Kill him!" Hong Can called out to Nie Tian.

Apparently, he was terrified by the high-tier outsider to the point where he was at a loss of what to do, and killing him was the only thing he could think of.

“Was it you?” With a low chuckle, the high-tier outsider fixed his eyes on Nie Tian and asked. “Are you the one who is issuing commands to that Blood Demon created out of a Bone Giant?”

“Umm, yes,” Nie Tian answered.

“That’s good.” The high-tier outsider nodded as his smile grew broader. “That means if I kill you, I won’t need to deal with that Blood Demon.”

With these words, he slowly stepped towards Nie Tian.

A broad, blackish-purple saber suddenly appeared in his slender-fingered right hand. The moment it appeared, the demon Qi that had been floating in the sky and behind him seemed to be suddenly attracted by a mysterious force and converged on him from all directions.

In a split second, his body was once again submerged in raging demon Qi.

Nie Tian lost sight of him.

He could only see a cluster of raging demon Qi, which was still gathering more demon Qi from above and behind it, gradually closing in on him.

“Nie Tian!” Feng Luo cried out.

With an anxious expression on his face, Nie Tian cried, “I can’t locate it with my psychic awareness!”

Chapter 197: The Seven “Eyes”

After a few attempts, Nie Tian had already mastered the method to control the Bone Blood Demon. He needed to either lock his psychic awareness onto an enemy as a way to command the Bone Blood Demon to attack it, or he needed to see the enemy with his eyes and command the Bone Blood Demon with a gesture of his hand.

Only in these two ways would the barely-intelligent Bone Blood Demon with an incomplete soul be able to realize what was the target.

However, because of the high-tier outsider’s profound magic, Nie Tian’s psychic awareness wasn’t able to lock onto him.

At the same time, since he was surrounded by surging demon Qi, Nie Tian couldn’t accurately point to him and issue a command to the Bone Blood Demon.

Therefore, at this point, Nie Tian couldn’t find a way to command the Bone Blood Demon to kill the high-tier outsider.

“Protect Nie Tian!” After realizing that Nie Tian couldn’t use the Bone Blood Demon to kill the high-tier outsider for the time being, Feng Luo immediately changed his tactics.

He was very well aware that Nie Tian was the only one who could manipulate the Bone Blood Demon. If anything should happen to him, they would immediately lose control of the Bone Blood

Demon. At that point, not only would they have no weapon with which to dispose of the outsiders, but the Bone Blood Demon could also potentially attack and kill them.

By that time, everyone within the Bone Blood Demon's sight would become its target.

Every single one of them had witnessed how it had slaughtered the other outsiders, so they all knew how deadly it could be.

They knew what would happen if this frightening creature ever applied the same method to them.

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

As the high-tier outsider approached, the raging demon Qi rapidly spread into the surroundings.

More demon Qi that had been floating in the sky seemed to answer his broad saber's summons, and rushed down from the heavens.

The disciples of the seven sects didn't have any notion of what to do while facing the approaching demon Qi.

All they did was step backwards to put distance between them and the demon Qi.

After all, there wasn't any demon Qi in the path they had taken to get there, so it was the only direction that could be considered relatively safe.

SHEW!

Nie Tian followed everyone as they rapidly retreated to stay away from the demon Qi's reach.

Face grim, everyone from the seven sects hastily summoned power from within their spiritual sea, and with their spiritual power of various attributes, they rapidly formed shimmering light shields around them.

The shields were of different colors due to the different attributes, such as fire, ice, thunder, and water.

Since they were all worried that the demon Qi might bore into their fleshy bodies, they could only form light shields to prevent it from happening.

“Hahaha, it won't work.” The high-tier outsider's clear laughs rang out from within the cluster of blackish-purple demon Qi. “We are transforming the spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth into our Qi. It won't be long before every corner of the Realm of Flame Heaven is full of it. By that time, the Realm of Flame Heaven will be rid of your kind.”

As he let out loud laughs, the demon Qi that kept pouring down

from the heavens suddenly changed its course.

One cluster after another, the dense demon Qi flooded down towards the area that Nie Tian and the others were escaping to, and only seconds later, a sea of demon Qi blocked their escape route.

As a result, they had no choice but to stop and fight the high-tier outsider in a sea of demon Qi.

Apparently, fighting in the demon Qi was very advantageous for the high-tier outsider.

On the other hand, Nie Tian and his group would have to use their spiritual power to maintain a protective shield around them at all times, so as to keep the demon Qi away.

Furthermore, during their fight, their psychic awareness would definitely be affected by the demon Qi and their senses would be weakened.

FIZZ! FIZZ!

The sounds of blades whizzing through air echoed out as bright, purple lights flashed within the demon Qi like slithering, purple lightning bolts.

Hong Can realized that the outsider was about to launch attacks with his saber and cried out, “Watch out, Nie Tian!”

Having seen that their escape route had been cut off, the other disciples of the seven sects realized that it would only be a matter of time before they were engulfed by the demon Qi.

Therefore, upon hearing Hong Can's words, they gathered around Nie Tian and braced for battle.

Enveloped by shields of different colors, everyone had taken out their spiritual tools, but because of the dense demon Qi, their facial expressions were no longer clear to Nie Tian.

However, he knew in his heart that, at that moment, no one wanted anything to happen to him, except maybe Qiu Heng.

After all, he was the only one who could control the Bone Blood Demon, so he was of the utmost importance if they wanted to survive the fight against the powerful, high-tier outsider.

BOOM! BOOM! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

As they swung their spiritual tools, multi-colored lights shot out and immediately clashed with the purple lightning bolts.

Spots of various colors sputtered about around Nie Tian as the power of different attributes slammed into the demonic power, making the area they were in surge with violent energy fluctuations.

Since Nie Tian was in the center of the circle of protectors, he wasn't harmed.

He could see that everyone was fighting with difficulty and they all had fear in their hearts.

However, since they had no other choice, they could only go all-out to fight the high-tier outsider.

KA! CHA!

One of the purple lightning bolts cut through their line of defense and shot towards a Heaven stage Qi warrior from the Grayvale sect.

As soon as the lightning bolt made contact with the water-blue light shield surrounding him, the shield shattered into pieces and the lightning bolt struck him right on his chest.

That man immediately went limp and collapsed to the ground. No more movement was made.

ZZZZZLA!

Like a snake, another bolt of lightning wreathed a Heaven stage expert from the Hell sect.

The icy light shield surrounding him was instantly crushed into

ice shards and the purple lightning bolt coiled around his fleshy body. It continued to contract. Even though the man struggled with all his strength, he soon stopped breathing. Only until then did the lightning bolt dissipate into the demon Qi.

In such a short time, they lost two Heaven stage experts to the purple lightning bolts.

BANG!

At the same time, the high-tier outsider's laughs constantly echoed out from the demon Qi as it seemed that he wanted to take his time to kill them and he enjoyed the process very much.

Nie Tian and the others couldn't see the outsider himself, but could only see numerous purple lightning bolts flying towards them from all directions like evil spirits.

They wanted to rush out to find the high-tier outsider and fight him up close.

However, they knew that once they left Nie Tian, considering his Lesser Heaven stage cultivation base, he probably would be instantly killed.

When Nie Tian was dead, the Bone Blood Demon would uncontrollably massacre everyone it saw. It would be a disaster for everyone.

Therefore, the only sensible move was to protect Nie Tian.

Nie Tian realized that they were in an unfavorable situation and understood why everyone had gathered around him and were protecting him.

After his attempts to locate the high-tier outsider had failed, he suddenly dropped to the ground in the middle of the defensive circle.

As soon as he sat down he rapidly cleared his mind. He forced himself not to think about the people who had died protecting him, the difficult situation they were in, and the fierce fight that was going on.

With a deep breath, he adjusted his aura and focused his attention on his soul.

The seven fragmentary stars were still shining with bright light, but after he had taken the four Soul Restoring Pills, they had grown bigger in size and the light they emanated lit up his soul.

He focused on the thought of drawing power from the fragmentary stars.

In the next moment, seven light spots wrapped in his psychic awareness suddenly flew out of his soul.

The moment the light spots, which were only detectable to him,

flew into the dense demon Qi, a strange feeling occurred to him.

He felt like each one of them served as an eye to him!

Before, he could only scan the area around him and search for movements and signs of life with his psychic awareness.

But now, he was able to command the seven spots of starlight to move around and thus gain an incomparably clear view of what was happening within the demon Qi.

Not only that, the upgraded psychic awareness the light spots contained could even enable him to see through the bodies of the disciples from the seven sects when the starlight shone on them. He could actually see their blood flowing and accordingly judge how powerful their souls were and how high their cultivation bases were.

With the help of the seven “eyes” that were shining with bright starlight, Nie Tian could now see even the finest hair on the high-tier outsider’s face!

He instantly locked onto him, and no matter where the outsider went, the “eyes” could shine bright starlight on him and help Nie Tian’s determine his location.

The Bone Blood Demon, who had been in a daze in the demon Qi, suddenly received Nie Tian’s command as it heaved a ferocious roar and bolted towards the high-tier outsider!

Chapter 198: Seize the Opportunity

“What?!” The high-tier outsider almost simultaneously sensed the anomaly, and thus dashed towards Nie Tian, hoping to get to him before the Bone Blood Demon could arrive.

He knew that Nie Tian had already found a way to locate him and set him as the Bone Blood Demon’s target.

Moments ago, he had been certain that the Bone Blood Demon wouldn’t be able to pose a threat to him, much less the bunch of Heaven stage human cultivators.

The way the Bone Blood Demon looked at him as it ran towards him made him realize that something had changed.

His broad saber suddenly flew out of his hand while shining with dazzling purple light.

On the other hand, Nie Tian, who was surrounded by the others, saw his movements very clearly with the help of his seven additional “eyes”.

However, at that moment, none of the others knew that the high-tier outsider had already launched an attack towards Nie Tian.

Nie Tian’s killing intent grew increasingly intense as he focused his mind on the high-tier outsider and issued his command to the Bone Blood Demon, “Kill him now!”

The Bone Blood Demon, which was significantly bigger than the high-tier outsider, took a few huge steps and rapidly arrived at the outsider's side.

It lifted up its gigantic foot that was wreathed in a blood aura and stamped down towards the high-tier outsider.

At the same time, with an effortless wave of its giant hand, the Bone Blood Demon stopped the saber's dashing momentum.

The brilliant light the saber gave out also suddenly went dim.

Even though the broad saber still managed to hack into the Bone Blood Demon's bony palm, only a few grayish-brown sparks sputtered out of the contact point; the Bone Blood Demon's hand wasn't damaged at all.

Seeing the Bone Blood Demon's gigantic foot block the heavens and crush down towards him, the high-tier outsider's expression flickered as he blurred into a flash and escaped.

The Bone Blood Demon's hollow eyes were fixed on the high-tier outsider as it unrelentingly chased after him and tried to stamp him with its feet. Moreover, it grew faster and swifter as it continued.

After evading for a short while, the high-tier outsider realized that he couldn't get rid of the Bone Blood Demon. Therefore, with

a cold snort, he started to release a strange soul fluctuation.

At the same time, his broad saber flew back into his hand.

“Quite impressive.” Dragging his broad saber on the ground, he took a deep look at Nie Tian with his dark-purple eyes, before turning around and dashing towards the Blood sect where the demon Qi was even richer.

Since the Bone Blood Demon had locked onto him, it sped away after him.

The demon Qi that the high-tier outsider had summoned to this place seemed to be drawn to him and also followed him towards the Blood sect’s sect gate like tidewater.

Nie Tian’s seven “eyes” also followed along as the outsider dashed to the area where the demon Qi was the densest.

However, after chasing for a while, they seemed to run of psychic power, as if they had reached the limit of the distance they could cover.

They wouldn’t be able to cover more ground unless Nie Tian moved along with them.

When the seven “eyes” lost track of the high-tier outsider, the Bone Blood Demon stopped and fell into a daze again.

As the demon Qi flowed away after the outsider, Nie Tian and the others were exposed to clear air again.

Upon seeing that the demon Qi had dissipated, everyone let out a sigh of relief and dissipated their colored light shields, so as not to lose more spiritual power.

Without wasting any time, they all took out their spirit stones to recover their strength.

“Nie Tian, did you find a way to regain control over the Bone Blood Demon?” Hong Can from the Hell sect turned to Nie Tian and asked while absorbing energy from the spirit stone in his hand.

“Yeah, I did.” Nie Tian nodded.

By that time, the seven spots of starlight wreathed in seven wisps of his psychic awareness had already returned to his soul.

He found that the psychic awareness that had returned to his soul had consumed more than half of its energy.

And when the seven light spots rejoined the seven fragmentary stars, they had also shrunk to one third of their original size.

Therefore, he realized how psychic power-consuming this

process was.

Surprise could be seen on Feng Luo's face as he asked, "Did you really? Even I couldn't use my psychic awareness to accurately locate that high-tier outsider in the demon Qi. Considering your cultivation base, you shouldn't be able to do that..."

After a brief moment of pondering, Nie Tian said, "It's a magic that master taught me."

Once again, he gave credit to Wu Ji, since he didn't dare to tell them that he had obtained the Fragmentary Star Incantation, using which he had refined seven powerful and mysterious fragmentary stars in his soul.

"Oh, so that's how it is." Feng Luo nodded but still harbored suspicion.

According to his understandings, as powerful as Wu Ji was, he shouldn't have the ability to enable Nie Tian, a young man in the Lesser Heaven stage, to master psychic techniques so miraculous.

"Well, do you have more Soul Restoring Pills?" Nie Tian asked softly.

"Did you consume a lot of psychic power just now?" asked Hong Can.

Nie Tian nodded in reply.

Without the slightest hesitation, Hong Can took out three more Soul Restoring Pills. He passed them to Nie Tian and said, “Here. They’re all I have left.”

Without saying a word, Nie Tian grabbed them and immediately shoved them into his mouth. Only after that did he say to Hong Can, “Thank you!”

Zou Yi from the Ghost sect also handed two Soul Restoring Pills to Nie Tian. “Here. I only have two left.”

Their previous fight had made him realize that it was almost impossible for them to turn around the situation with their own strength alone, and if it weren’t for the fact that Nie Tian had eventually locked onto the high-tier outsider and commanded the Bone Blood Demon to attack him, they wouldn’t possibly have driven him away by themselves.

Therefore, since Nie Tian needed his psychic power to manipulate the Bone Blood Demon, the wisest thing to do was to give Nie Tian Soul Restoring Pills so that he could recover his psychic power as soon as possible.

That was the reason why, knowing perfectly well how valuable the Soul Restoring Pills were, he gave them to Nie Tian anyways.

“Thank you.” Nie Tian expressed his gratitude before wolfing them down.

When Nie Tian had consumed the previous four Soul Restoring Pills, the psychic power had rapidly filled his soul and after that, most of it flowed into the seven fragmentary stars.

He was also aware that the precious Soul Restoring Pills could nourish the seven fragmentary stars to a great extent.

If they hadn't been in such a special situation where everyone depended on him to control the Bone Blood Demon, no one would indulge him so much as to allow him to take seven Soul Restoring Pills in such a short time, including Wu Ji.

Having proved the miraculousness of the fragmentary stars in his soul, he wanted to fuel them as much as he could and make them shine as brightly as possible.

“Here you go...”

At that moment, Yu Tong suddenly held out one Soul Restoring Pill for him. Reluctance could still be seen on her face.

Nie Tian went blank for a moment before he looked at her, wide-eyed, and said, “This isn't poison, is it?”

“What?! Suit yourself!” Yu Tong's face dropped as prepared to take the pill back.

Nie Tian chuckled and swiftly grabbed the Soul Restoring Pill in her palm. Then he stuffed it in his mouth and said, “Thank you, ma’am.” He never imagined that Yu Tong would give him such a precious medicinal pill.

Anger could still be seen in Yu Tong’s eyes as she said, “Consider it as a loan. You’ll have to give one back to me when the Blood sect’s crisis is over! I’m only giving it to you for the sake of the Blood sect and my fellow sect members. Don’t you overthink it! We’re not over! I’m still looking forward to straightening things out with you!”

“I see. I see.” Nie Tian said, laughing heartily. Meanwhile, he thought to himself, don’t count on it, stupid.

Then he glanced around and saw everyone else staring at him, their faces filled with astonishment.

Seeing that no one else was offering more Soul Restoring Pills, he closed his eyes and directed the wisps of power the pills generated to nourish the seven fragmentary stars in his mind.

Chapter 199: Communication

While Nie Tian refined the Soul Restoring Pills, bloody battles were taking place in the Blood sect.

By the time Nie Tian recovered and arrived a few kilometers away from the main gate of the Blood sect' along with his group, they saw that the entire Blood sect had already been enveloped by the dense demon Qi.

Numerous gigantic outsiders were roaring as they attacked the disciples of the Blood sect with all kinds of powerful weapons.

All the outsiders could move freely and see clearly in the demon Qi, completely unaffected by it.

Not only that, it seemed that they could even draw power from the demon Qi to recover their strength and push their battle prowess to another level.

On the other hand, not a single high-tier outsider could be seen, as it appeared that they only issued commands with their soul consciousness, but didn't fight in the battlefield.

Each and every magnificent stone palace and pavilion that originally could be seen everywhere had collapsed.

Blood stains could be seen around the ruins and rubble, but not a single Blood sect disciple could be found.

With another look, mangled bodies could be seen in some low-tier outsiders' hands and mouths...

Apparently, those low-tier outsiders had an innate thirst for human flesh.

The biggest difference between them and the high-tier outsiders was that they weren't as intelligent; they were basically at the same level as low-grade spirit beasts.

In the center of the Blood sect's central square, the sectmaster of the Blood sect, Li Jing, was sitting on top of a lotus that was glittering with bright, blood-colored light.

She was wreathed in a rich, bloody aura, and a enormous blood shadow was floating over her head. The blood shadow unleashed raging power to its surroundings and formed a gigantic scarlet light shield, enveloping and sheltering numerous Blood sect disciples gathered at the square.

The square was surrounded by numerous blood pools, the blood within rushing up into the air like reversed waterfalls and madly poured into the enormous blood shadow under the command of Li Jing's secret magic.

The mountain-like blood shadow continuously expanded while unleashing suffocating energy fluctuations.

Shen Xiu, Yu Tong's master, and many other powerful experts of the Blood sect were gathered around Li Jing. Every one of them had their spiritual tools in hand as they braced themselves for battle with anxious looks in their eyes.

They were very well aware that the enormous blood shadow needed a constant supply of blood to maintain its power.

However, the spirit beast blood that they had stored in their sect wasn't limitless. Besides, they had used up a large proportion of their blood storage to power their grand, sect-protecting spell formation.

Once the spirit beast blood ran out, the last defensive line created by the blood shadow would immediately fall apart.

At that time, all the outsiders would swarm into the central square and start a massacre.

A large number of low-tier outsiders were already gathered around the scarlet light shield. Some were gnawing on the body parts of the Blood sect disciples who had failed to get under the light shield in time, while others madly rammed into the light shield over and over again.

Upon a closer look, five high-tier outsiders with purple hair and pupils were among the crowd of low-tier outsiders.

Significantly shorter than the low-tier outsiders around them,

those five high-tier outsiders stood together and conversed with one another in their own language. They would point to Li Jing from time to time as they chatted with relaxed expressions on their faces.

It seemed that they were waiting for the numerous low-tier outsiders to wear out the power of the scarlet light shield.

And when the low-tier outsiders had torn open the light shield, they would attack together and kill sectmaster Li Jing.

Every one of the five high-tier outsiders was tall, skinny, and wore exquisite outfits. The females were beautiful and the males were handsome.

Just as they were chattering cheerfully, the other high-tier outsider, who had been driven away by the Bone Blood Demon, descended among them.

The five chattering high-tier outsiders stopped talking the moment he arrived.

Each and every one of them bowed towards him in a respectful way. A devilish female outsider stepped forward and said, “You shouldn’t be here, Lord Groete. It’s not safe here.”

“Where are your guards, my lord?” another male outsider asked.

From the look of it, the high-tier outsider who they referred to as

Groete was not as strong as they were.

However, his status must be much higher than any one of them. Therefore, they remained humble and wore smiles on their faces the whole time.

Perhaps, the reason they had arranged for that Groete outsider to stay away from the battlefield was that he was still young and relatively weak.

Apparently, the other five had attached great importance to Groete's safety, even more so than taking the Blood sect.

Eyebrows furrowed, Groete continued, "I ran into some trouble. I encountered a handful of human Qi warriors who seemed to have appeared out of nowhere. They were all pretty weak, and I could have single-handedly killed them all. However, they had a powerful Blood Demon to help them, and it was created from a Bone Giant that possessed an eighth level bloodline power.

"It killed all my guards and forced me to come here."

The female outsider, who dressed very alluringly, frowned and said, "A Bone Giant that possessed an eighth level bloodline power?!" Most of her curvaceous body was exposed, with purple armor only covering her chest and waist. "If the Bone Giant was manipulated by one of the human Qi warriors, you could have stop it by killing its commander, right?"

“Of course I know that, Sarah. And I tried.” Groete sounded a bit frustrated. “He seemed to be an unimpressive young man. Originally, I thought I would be able to evade his psychic awareness and kill him before he could command the Bone Giant to harm me.

“But the strangest thing was that even though his cultivation level was rather low, he somehow managed to locate me through my shield.

“As soon as he did, the Bone Blood Demon started attacking and chasing me, not giving me a chance to get close to him.

“Fortunately, it seemed that the method he used to locate me was limited to a certain range. When I was far enough away from him, the Bone Blood Demon could no longer keep track of me and thus stopped chasing me.”

The outsider named Sarah bowed in apology and said, “I’m sorry, my lord. I shouldn’t have questioned your wisdom. Now that these survivors from the Blood sect can barely hold on to their own ground, how about I go and kill those who offended you? Even though the Bone Giant possesses an eighth level bloodline power, I’ll find a way to defeat it.”

“Killing them all won’t be a hard task for me.”

Groete thought for a moment and shook his head. “No. You should keep your focus on Li Jing. She’s the sectmaster of the Blood sect. I trust that she’s smart enough to see that you’re the

only one who can pose a threat to her. If you leave, I'm afraid she won't defend any more. Instead, she probably will lead her people to fight back against us.

“Without you, I don't think these snotty fools would be able to stop her.

“I need you to stay here.”

Sarah didn't dare to disobey him, so she could only nod and say, “As you wish, my lord.”

“Good.” Groete said, looking poised and calm. “From what I can tell, the Blood sect disciples are going to run out of their blood storage soon. As soon as they do, that giant blood shadow will lose its power source and the red light shield that has been protecting them will fall apart accordingly. It will be a smarter move for us to kill these people from the Blood sect first, and then go take care of that Bone Blood Demon.

“Those Qi warriors I encountered are still quite some distance away from here. Plus, the closer they get, the richer our Qi they have to deal with.

“The youngster who controls the Bone Blood Demon is definitely not strong enough to withstand the erosion and go through the dense Qi by himself. I'm certain that it will be a long time before someone can help him get here.

“If he can’t, the Bone Blood Demon won’t. Then, we’ll have all the time we need to finish off the problem in front of us.”

“I trust your judgment, my lord,” Sarah, the female outsider, replied in a respectful way.

...

It was at this point that Shen Xiu’s expression suddenly flickered. She turned to Li Jing and said, “Little Tong is here! I can sense the aura of the Blood Spirit Pearl!”

Wreathed in rich blood auras, Li Jing’s figure could only be vaguely seen. Upon hearing Shen Xiu’s words, she seemed rather surprised. With a voice that was somewhat eager, she said, “She’s back from the Heaven Gate trial? Contact her via the Blood Spirit Pearl now! Tell her not to come back and get as far away as she can. We need to secure a seed for our sect!”

“Sure!” A pained look could be seen in Shen Xiu’s eyes as she immediately tried to contact Yu Tong.

A moment later, a hint of elation appeared on Shen Xiu’s wrinkled face as she called out, “Sectmaster! Little Tong isn’t alone and they have awakened the Bone Blood Demon!”

“What?” Li Jing’s expression flickered. “How could that be possible?! We had poured all of our resources on it and failed to awaken it due to its lack of life power. How could they have done

it?”

“It was Wu Ji’s disciple, Nie Tian,” Shen Xiu said.

“Nie Tian?!”

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“Yeah! Nie Tian!”

Shen Xiu also sounded deeply confused. “Little Tong said Nie Tian claimed that he obtained a Fruit of Life during the Heaven Gate trial and after taking it, his blood now carries life power. And it was his blood that awakened the Bone Blood Demon and brought it under his command.”

“Didn’t you trap the Bone Blood Demon’s mutilated soul in the Blood Spirit Pearl?” Sectmaster Li Jing said.

“Yeah, but it escaped from the Blood Spirit Pearl and merged with its fleshy body.” Bitterness could be seen on Shen Xiu’s face as she continued, “Little Tong’s cultivation base is too low and her understandings of demon controlling magics are still shallow. If I were there, I could have overpowered its soul and brought it under my control.”

“I see...” Still wreathed in a dense blood aura, Li Jing pondered for a moment and said, “If it were another time, I would never allow someone from the other sects to control the Bone Blood Demon that we cultivated with heart and soul. But these are different times.”

Li Jing shifted her gaze away from Shen Xiu and focused on Groete and Sarah, who were standing quite a distance from her.

“It could be a good news for us. Tell Little Tong that we need Wu

Ji's disciple to bring the Bone Blood Demon here as soon as possible.

“Even though the Bone Blood Demon can't fully restore its eighth level bloodline power, it's still strong enough to keep that Sarah outsider busy.

“At that time, I'll jump in and fight her together. I believe by doing that, we'll be able to force the outsiders to raise their siege.”

Shen Xiu's spirit was greatly lifted as she replied, “Got it!”

With these words, she casted her secret magic and communicated Li Jing's plans with Yu Tong via the Blood Spirit Pearl.

...

In the place where the demon Qi had dispersed.

Feng Luo, Hong Can and all the others were gathered around Nie Tian, waiting for him to absorb the Soul Restoring Pills and restore his psychic power.

Holding the Blood Spirit Pearl in her hands, many expressions flashed across Yu Tong's delicate face as she received her master's message.

Moments later, she put away the Blood Spirit Pearl and said to

everyone, “Things are not looking good in our sect!”

“Did you just connect with your master via the Blood Spirit Pearl?” Elation could be seen in Feng Luo’s eyes.

Hong Can and the others were also intrigued as they all shifted their gazes away from Nie Tian onto Yu Tong.

Some of them knew that the Blood Spirit Pearl belonged to Shen Xiu, so she could communicate with Yu Tong via it when it was within certain distance.

Furthermore, none of them had an idea of what was going on in the Blood sect.

Therefore, they were rather eager to get a hold of the situation over there.

Yu Tong held nothing back as she answered Feng Luo’s question. She told him about the difficult situation they were in, including that a few high-tier outsiders laid siege to them and that they were about to run out the stored spirit beast blood.

She also relayed Li Jing’s message that she hoped Nie Tian could lead the Bone Blood Demon to the Blood sect and assist her in battle as quickly as possible.

Everyone let out sighs of relief after hearing Yu Tong’s words.

The situation over in the Blood sect was a bit better than what they had expected. After all, most of the powerful experts were still alive and they could hold their ground since the grand spell formation hadn't yet been breached by the outsiders.

"She said that as long as Nie Tian could bring the Bone Blood Demon to the battlefield, she'll have a way to turn the situation around?" Hong Can exclaimed.

Yu Tong nodded. "Yes, that's what our sectmaster said."

"Good!" With a deep breath, Hong Can looked over at Nie Tian and said, "We'll protect Nie Tian; march out to the Blood sect together as soon as he wakes up!"

"Time is of the essence. We'd better hurry." Seeing that Nie Tian was still not awake after quite some time, Yu Tong became somewhat anxious. "My master said that they're running out of spirit beast blood. Once they drain the blood storage, the blood shadow will no longer be able to protect them with the blood shield. At that time, nothing will be able to stop the flood of countless low-tier outsiders and many of our sectmates will die!"

Upon hearing her words, a desire to wake Nie Tian rose in Feng Luo's heart.

At that very moment, Li Fan from the Cloudsoaring sect frowned and said, "He took far too many Soul Restoring Pills. We'd better let him awake by himself. Right now, all his attention is

concentrated on refining the pills. If we interrupt him at such a moment and he falls into a Qi deviation, will you be responsible for the consequences? Even though you don't care about him, you should consider how it would affect the situation over in your sect!"

After hearing these words, Feng Luo swallowed the words that were already at the tip of his tongue.

He was aware that Li Fan's comments made sense. After all, with his low cultivation base, Nie Tian was trying to refine multiple Soul Restoring Pills at the same time to recover his psychic power in the shortest time possible. He didn't want to achieve the opposite result by waking him prematurely.

After a moment of hesitation, Feng Luo sat back down and said with a helpless tone, "Let's wait then. I hope he can wake up sooner rather than later. He is the only hope for the survivors of the Blood sect. They desperately need him to step up now."

Meanwhile, Nie Tian immersed himself in his soul to observe the seven fragmentary stars. As the efficacy of the Soul Restoring Pills kicked in, they were constantly expanding and shining with even brighter starlight.

The starlight seemed to have merged with his psychic awareness and caused it to upgrade into something more powerful, like an eye in the sky.

With it, he could now micro-detect the movement of nearby

creatures' muscles and blood, through which he could briefly tell the person's cultivation base.

Before, he could only use his psychic awareness to sense, but couldn't see through the surface.

After his psychic awareness was mixed with the starlight, both his sensing ability and perception had heightened.

This made him realize that the power the seven fragmentary stars unleashed was a different kind of power from his original psychic power.

He had a feeling that the power that resided in those fragmentary stars was none other than soul power!

Normally speaking, only Worldly realm Qi warriors would be able to upgrade their soul and transform their refined psychic power into soul power.

The idea that he had obtained soul power through the seven fragmentary stars would be shocking to every Qi warrior in the Realm of Flame Heaven.

From the look of it, the Fragmentary Star Incantation, legacy of the mysterious Ancient Fragmentary Star Palace, was indeed the ultimate reward of the Heaven Gate trial.

Immersed in excitement and elation, he observed as the wisps of

power that Soul Restoring Pills generated poured into the fragmentary stars.

Some time passed and he could no longer detect any more wisps of psychic power ascending to his mind. Only at that time did he open his eyes.

As soon as he did, he saw everyone gazing at him, anxiety filling their eyes.

“Something’s wrong?” Surprised, he asked.

“Have you fully recovered your psychic power?”

Feng Luo hastily asked.

Nie Tian nodded.

“Good!” Not wanting to wait another second, Feng Luo said, “We march towards the Blood sect now. They need you and the Bone Blood Demon that you control!”

“Why the hurry all of a sudden?” Nie Tian was confused.

“I’ll tell you on the way!” Feng Luo said loudly.

“Alright. ” Nie Tian rose to his feet and rapidly followed the

others towards the area that was filled with raging demon Qi.

Before entering the demon Qi, they once again enveloped themselves with light shields of different colors, so that demon Qi couldn't infiltrate their fleshy bodies and make them slaves to the outsiders.

With a brief movement within his mind, a wisp of spiritual power flew out of Nie Tian's spiritual sea and spread out into a thin, white light shield around him.

Under Feng Luo's lead, everyone traveled rather slowly within the demon Qi.

As they went deeper into the demon Qi, the demon Qi became denser and denser, and they had to consume more of their spiritual power to keep themselves unharmed.

About fifteen minutes later.

Zheng Bin and Jiang Lingzhu were the first ones to experience discomfort. Face ghastly, they had to stop.

They had consumed more than half of their spiritual power and had to recuperate with spirit stones before they could continue their march.

An unhealthy redness could also be seen on Yu Tong's face, and the blood-colored light shield enveloping her also started to flicker.

“Their cultivation bases are too low.” Feng Luo frowned and said, “Little Tong, give me the Blood Spirit Pearl. You should stay here and recover. If you think staying here is too consuming, follow the same route back, and wait for us in the area where there’s no demon Qi.”

Hong Can rubbed his chin before pointing towards An Shiyi and a few other Heaven stage cultivators and saying, “Considering your cultivation bases, I’m afraid you won’t be able to make it to the sect gate of the Blood sect either. I suggest you do the same. Stay here or go back to where we came from.”

He hadn’t anticipated that as they went deeper into the demon Qi, the drain on their spiritual power would become so great.

“Alright.” As she had been instructed, Yu Tong handed the Blood Spirit Pearl to Feng Luo and said, “Uncle Feng, Nie Tian’s cultivation base is pretty low too. Is he gonna be alright?”

“We’ll protect him and use our strength to separate him from the erosion of the demon Qi,” Feng Luo said as he grabbed the Blood Spirit Pearl.

“You’d better make it to our sect!” Yu Tong said, glaring at Nie Tian.

“I will.” Nie Tian’s voice was firm and determined.

No one objected Hong Can's proposal. Even An Shiyi, who was rather worried about Nie Tian's safety, had a feeling that she might not be able to hold on for much longer, and thus chose to stay behind.

That said, protected by the handful of Greater Heaven experts, Nie Tian marched on to the Blood sect.

"Nie Tian, how do you feel? Do you need us to help you?"

"No. I'm good for now."

A moment passed. "No need to force yourself, Nie Tian. Let us know if you need help."

"Don't worry. I'm okay."

A while later. "Seriously, Nie Tian, do you need help?"

Don't push yourself to the limit. I don't want you to collapse the moment we get there!"

"I can hold on for a little longer."

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